Wolverhampton
CHRONICLE

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Businesses counting cost after angry clashes on streets

FIRMS LOSE OUT IN CITY PROTEST

By David Cosgrove

BUSINESSES have said they are counting the cost after Britain First supporters descended on Wolverhampton city centre sparking angry clashes with protesters.

The far-right group gathered in the busy city centre on Saturday and were met by a group of counter-protesters.

Police flooded into Dudley Street to keep the groups apart, but disruption continued for around three hours on the main` shopping stretch – with Britain First encircled by officers close to the Wulfrun Centre.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said businesses had been 'severely affected throughout the demonstration'. Sarah Dacre from Patisserie Valerie said: "We were very quiet, much quieter than usual. We saw all the police coming past and groups of people shouting.

"It was loud, there was chanting and we saw them all walk past. We didn't have to shut our shop at least."

Quieter

Steve Franklin, who has run a hot dog and burger stand in the city centre for more than 25 years, said: "I compared the weekend to last year's figures and I was down a lot.

"For example, it had got around on social media and became a bit of a no-go zone.

"I wasn't intimidated myself, but I can see some other people were.

"If they want to come down here, from London or wherever, they march down here and cause disruption when they know they're not welcome here. They should expect some animosity. They tried putting leaflets on my stand but I told them they couldn't."

After arriving at around 11am, Britain First moved on just after 2pm.

Chief Supt Dave Sturman said: "The right to demonstrate is a fundamental human right and we have a duty to facilitate peaceful protests, however we had not been given prior notice of the event – leaving little time to prepare.

"Our policing response was swift and robust ensuring that confrontation was kept to a minimum and the city of Wolverhampton returned to normality as soon as possible."

● Picture – Page 3

OLD PALS TEAM UP ON STAGE FOR BRASSED OFF

THEIR friendship has spanned 40 years and now schoolfriends Greg Yates and Tim Jones will be treading the boards together in two of the principal roles in Brassed Off.

The show opens on Tuesday at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. The ambitious production is the first in-house show for the theatre for over four decades and features a large community cast.

Both Greg and Tim auditioned and were chosen to play Jim and Harry, roles which they will reprise when the production plays at Devonshire Park Theatre in Eastbourne in September.

Having attended St Thomas Moore school in Willenhall, their friendship was formed through a love of sport, playing cricket and football together.

However, they also shared an interest in the stage with the school producing four shows a year. Between them they performed in most of the productions. Greg played iconic roles such as Macbeth and Edmond in King Lear. Although in pantomime he would be the Dame or Silly Billy. Greg's most memorable part was playing the role of Jesus in Godspell.

Greg said: "The main draw for me is that I would like to turn professional again, I've just been in a film called Sustain which was crowd-funded to enter into film festivals.

Memorable

"I also consider it a massive privilege to be working with esteemed professionals, especially Jeffrey Holland and director Gareth Tudor Price. I would also like to say thank you to the Grand for putting trust in the community that are taking part.

"On a personal level, it was my father's favourite film and he passed way in 2012 so I would like to do this for him."

Tim first performed at The Grand in 1985 for the Bilston Operatic production of Guys and Dolls and since then he has performed in over 40 shows. His most memorable male lead was as Henry Higgins in My Fair Lady for South Staffs Musical Theatre Company in both 2001 and 2009.

He said: "Brassed Off is a chance to be involved with something that is home produced on a professional level, which is thrilling.

"I have relished the opportunity to work with a recognised director and being involved in the whole process of a professional show from start to finish has been fascinating. This show is very exciting because you have the band and a large community ensemble and it's great to do it at my home theatre the Grand."

Brassed Off runs from August 23 to September 2.

Schoolfriends Tim Jones as Harry and Greg Yates as Jim in Brassed Off

TRANSPORT

Further Metro misery as more routes close

TRAFFIC chaos caused by work on the £15 million Midland Metro extension and upgrading is set to escalate as a new phase starts later this week.

From tomorrow, Eagle Street will close at its junction with Bilston Road until Christmas. Access to Bilston Road from Sutherland Avenue will also be cordoned off round-the-clock until October 3.

Traffic diversions have been in place since June. The line is currently closed between the A41 Bilston Road stop Priestfield and Wolverhampton St Georges for tram track maintenance.

The latest works are listed on Wolverhampton Council's website as expected to have a 'high impact' on motorists.

CHARITY

Wolves fans raise £71,000 for Carl

MORE than £70,000 has so far been raised for Cure Leukaemia through fundraising events in support of Wolves goalkeeper Carl Ikeme.

Private donations have been added to the total, which stands at £71,337 and counting.

Carl took to Twitter to thank everyone for their support. He said: "Just wanted to say a huge thank you."

● Gloves – Page 3

ROADWORKS

Delays while gas mains are replaced

LONG delays are expected over the next three weeks while gas mains are replaced along a busy city road.

Hordern Road, Whitmore Reans, will be closed in both directions between its junction with Court Road and Tring Court until September 1.

The closure will be in force 24 hours to allow Cadent Gas to replace gas mains.

INSIDE

FAREWELL TO WAR HERO

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'Increased' threat of drones at prison

HMP Oakwood, Featherstone

A PRISON is facing an 'increased' threat of drones flying in mobile phones and deadly drugs – including Black Mamba – a report has revealed.

The Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) has stated the problem remains an 'ongoing issue' at HMP Oakwood, in Featherstone, which is bringing in military grade radar to combat it on a six-month trial.

The watchdog reported that in October last year a drone was used to fly in a 'large quantity' of Mamba, also known as Spice, months after the same body had flagged the cannabis-like drugs formerly known as legal highs, as a 'priority concern'.

However despite the growing threat the IMB declared G4S, which runs the Category C lock-up, were managing the problem well.

Their 2016/17 annual review said: "The increased and ongoing threat of illegal items such as drugs and mobile phones entering the prison using drones, throw overs and passes during visits is managed very well with a good detection rate."

It adds: "There is an ongoing issue in relation to the use of drones around the prison but the IMB are of the view that the security department, together with the police and two other HMP establishments adjacent to Oakwood (Featherstone and Brinsford), are proactive in dealing with this issue."

In response Director of HM Prison Oakwood, John McLaughlin, said: "As the report recognises, we have good links with Staffordshire Police and routinely refer illegal activity to them in order to help us tackle those who undermine the safety of our regime."

Soaking up the sounds and sun at WV1 Fest

THOUSANDS of revellers enjoyed the sounds of some of music's biggest icons as the sun shone on WV1 Fest.

Music lovers travelled for the two-day festival at Wolverhampton's West Park which featured 40 acts across two stages.

Highlights for many were tributes to the Arctic Monkeys, AC/DC, David Bowie, Foo Fighters, Metallica, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Daft Punk.

Tom and Anna Welch, from Halesowen, were there with their children Rosie, 12, and Rob, 10, and Anna's brother, also Tom.

"It's a good, cheap day out," said husband Tom, 50, an electronics engineer. "We've brought a picnic so it's a really good family day out for all of us."

The only drawback was paying £4.50 for a pint, said Anna, who teaches mechanical engineering at Dudley College.

Biggest

The festival, launched five years ago in Manchester, Bolton and Preston, included Wolverhampton in its list of venues last year for the first time.

It is billed as the UK's biggest free festival and included a market, fairground rides and children's area. Entry was strictly by advance ticket. Among those who attended last year's festival as well were father and daughter Gary and Skye Mincher, from Stourbridge, who made sure not to miss out on Sunday lunch by heating up chicken, carrots and potatoes – complete with gravy – on a tiny primus stove.

Health service auditor Gary said he used to feed 13-year-old Skye as a baby listening to music channel MVTV2 so she had grown up liking the same music as him.

The 45-year-old, also a semi-professional musician, described the WV1 Fest as a welcome addition to the Black Country music scene. He added: "The really good thing about WV1 is the inclusion of non-tribute bands, who are young and up-and-coming."

Organiser Julian Taylor said Wolverhampton had been hugely successful.

Black Country band Fahran proved a big hit on the Main Stage

A young reveller joins in

Miai Belle, Vicki Evans and Jaden Thomas, aged 11, from Wolverhampton, were among the crowd

Consortium set to move railwaystaff after takeover

AROUND 2,500 railway staff will be transferred from London Midland to the Dutch and Japanese consortium which takes over the regional rail franchise.

The change in operator will also see the removal of London Midland markings on trains, beginning next month.

From December 10, when West Midlands Rail Ltd take over the franchise, trains will be painted in purple and orange. The local services, such as Walsall to Wolverhampton, will have West Midlands Railway on the side of carriages. But the firm is yet to decide on branding for the longer services, such as Birmingham to Liverpool.

Reacting to the announcement, London Midland managing director Patrick Verwer said: "Over the coming months our focus will remain on delivering the best possible service to our passengers, each day and every day. This approach is already producing high levels of customer satisfaction. We have created a strong foundation to build on."

Rail Union RMT is to have talks with the consortium to seek assurances over the staffing of trains and stations. General secretary Mick Cash said: "RMT is demanding urgent talks over the guards, ticket offices and station staffing. The union has already made it clear that we will fight any moves to de-staff."

● Cancelled – Page 21

Beauty of way to boost coffers

CALMING massages and rejuvenating facials helped bring in £730 for charity.

The Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Elias Mattu, hosted a charity pamper day in support of his chosen charities.

Facials, manicures, waxing, threading, henna art and Indian head massages were on offer for visitors to the Mayoral Suite at the Civic Centre, in St Peter's Square.

Youngsters also had the chance to get involved with face painting and story telling at the fundraiser.

Cash raised will be donated to Interfaith Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton Sickle Cell Care Centre, Street Pastors, Wolverhampton Central Youth Theatre and Acorns Children's Hospice.

'Eyesore' to go?

AN 'EYESORE' former garage could be replaced with shops and flats. The garage and yard in Byrne Road, Blakenhall, would be demolished. A new building would be erected with two shops and five flats above. There would also be seven parking spaces.

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Tata seals a deal to save pensions for steelworkers

THE final move to secure the pensions of tens of thousands of steelworkers – many in the Black Country – has been announced, ending any fresh doubts about future payments.

Steel giant Tata gave details of a new proposal to replace the British Steel Pension Scheme.

Workers voted earlier this year to accept lower benefits in return for investment which will secure jobs. Tata Steel employs around 8,500 in the UK, more than 600 of them in the Black Country at sites in Wednesfield, Walsall and Brierley Hill.

Finalising the pension arrangements is expected to clear the way for Tata to merge its European steel business with German firm Thyssen Krupp. Tata Steel UK said it had signed the documentation for a regulated apportionment arrangement with the Trustee of the British Steel Pension Scheme, offering 'more sustainable outcomes' for pensioners, employees and the business.

The steel trade unions, Community, Unite and GMB, said in a statement: "We welcome the announcement which includes a commitment that Tata will stand behind a new scheme with reduced annual increases."

It sees Tata make a payment of £550 million to the British Steel Pension Scheme and the British Steel Pension Scheme Trustee will get a one third stake in the steel business.

Father killed in drink-drive crash

A FATHER-OF-FOUR was killed after he drove two times over the drink-drive limit crashing his car, an inquest heard.

James O'Brien sped along Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, on May 15. The 28-year-old overtook a vehicle on the 30mph limit road and then turned left into Ham Lane on the way home to Oak Lane. But his Renault Scenic flipped onto its side. His alcohol level was around 200 milligrams per decilitre according to a toxicology report – the legal limit is 80 mg/dl.

Cause of death was traumatic asphyxia. Coroner Zafar Siddique concluded he died as a result of a traffic collision down to driver error saying 'it may have been affected by the alcohol consumed earlier'.

Run helps heroes

A TWO-MILE fun run is being held later this month. The event in aid of Help for Heroes starts at Farley Park Lodge in Whitehall Road on August 30 at 11am. People can register on the day or call 0121 318 1166 in advance.

Get hands on signed gloves for Carl

Steve Plant, Steve Bull, Ryan Leister

GLOVES worn during a 24-hour penalty shootout to raise money for a cancer charity are up for auction as fundraisers look to push on from their £71,000 total raised so far.

The event was organised for Cure Leukaemia following Wolves keeper Carl Ikeme's diagnosis with the disease.

Pairs of gloves signed by the club's other keepers John Ruddy, Harry Burgoyne and Will Norris are up for auction to raise more funds for the charity.

People can bid for the gloves on Twitter or Facebook by contacting shootout organiser Steve Plant before tomorrow.

He said he has been 'gobsmacked' by the support for the fundraiser.

Mr Plant said: "We've got the gloves but also lots of other stuff has been donated.

"People keep bringing stuff to us and saying 'auction this and put it into the fund'.

"The response from people has been great.

"The three keepers signed the gloves which were specially made for the penalty shootout and donated to us. We've also had shirts sent in to us from other clubs like Norwich and Barnsley with 'Ikeme 1' on the back, which they've donated for the auction.

"Also, people that have had old shirts for years are sending them in to try to earn something for the fund.

"I've been gobsmacked by how much support we've had so far – and it's still coming in."

To donate visit @wolvesmatchworn on Twitter or Mr Plant's Facebook page.

Civic revamp is delayed again for more asbestos

THE major revamp of Wolverhampton's Civic Halls could be delayed again following the discovery of more asbestos.

A £14.4 million refurbishment of the Grade II-listed venue in North Street is ongoing and had originally been due for completion in March 2018.

Earlier this year it was revealed the estimated completion had been pushed back to October 2018 – and now Wolverhampton council has revealed it could take even longer.

Bosses at the local authority say the latest delay is because of 'additional works that need addressing' and the discovery of a 'small amount of asbestos'. Nearly £500,000 was forked out to remove the potentially toxic material ahead of the work beginning last year.

Hurdles

A council spokesman said: "While the contractor has been carrying out the refurbishment works they have uncovered additional works that need addressing. When dealing with a Grade II-listed building there was always a possibility we would face hurdles like this that could set us back beyond October 2018.

"Additional works that need addressing include electrical, mechanical and ventilation. A further small amount of asbestos has also been discovered. Asbestos specialists have confirmed there is no risk, nor has there ever been a risk to public health, and action is being taken to treat the affected areas before the halls temporarily reopen.

"We are now reassessing timescales to work out exactly when the Civic Halls will fully reopen. Any rescheduling will ensure long-standing key events like the Grand Slam of Darts will go ahead."

The halls will temporarily reopen for public shows between October 21 and January 2, 2018. The refurbishment will see the overall capacity increase in both the Civic and Wulfrun Halls, meaning they will be able to cater for a total of almost 5,000 people. Improvements at the Civic Hall include a new balcony and a new glass-covered bar area.

Clashes close part of city centre

Police provide a cordon to try and prevent the rival protesters from clashing in Dudley Street

SHOPPERS watched on in shock and horror as rival activists clashed in Wolverhampton.

A group of Britain First supporters were confronted by up to 100 anti-fascist demonstrators. Tempers flared and eggs were thrown from the roof of the Wulfrun shopping centre as dozens of police officers formed lines to keep the two groups apart.

Chants of 'Britain First – we're fighting back' were met with a chorus of 'Whose streets? Our streets' by the banner-waving protesters. Part of the busy Dudley Street was cordoned off at the height of the trouble at around noon on Saturday. Police made one arrest.

Around 20 far right Britain First supporters from around the country were in the city to hold a recruitment drive but met opposition from the Wolverhampton and Bilston Trades Union Council and United Against Fascism.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Begging woman sparks police alert

A SUSPICIOUS woman begging for fuel money for her car has prompted an alert from police.

Several reports have been made to Staffordshire Police about a female knocking on doors at homes and businesses in Codsall and Bilbrook.

A force spokesman said: "Over the past few days, Staffordshire Police have had numerous calls in regards to a female begging for money in the Codsall and Bilbrook area.

"Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity."

People can pass on details by calling the force on the non-emergency number 101.

School scheme for old nursing home

PLANS have been submitted to transform a former Wolverhampton nursing home into a school.

Bushbury Court Nursing Home, Hellier Road, sold for £300,000 at auction last year. There are plans to turn it into an independent specialist school for children who need additional support.

A formal change-of-use application has been submitted to Wolverhampton City Council. The school would host up to 54 children from key stages two to four and would create 20 full-time and 15 part-time jobs.

Amazon pays 50pc lower on tax bill

AMAZON saw a 50 per cent fall in the UK corporation tax it paid last year and at the same time that saw a 54 per cent increase in turnover.

Accounts filed by Amazon UK Services show the company was billed £15.8 million in 2015 compared with £7.4m in 2016. In the same period, turnover at Amazon UK Services broke the £1 billion barrier for the first time, climbing from £946m to £1.46 bn, while profit before tax fell from £48.5m to £24.2m.

Amazon has a huge distribution warehouse at Rugeley.

Mother urges runners to back charity event

RUNNERS have been urged to sign up for a fun run to raise money for a charity set up by the family of terror attack victims.

The Run for Joel event takes place on September 10 at Sandwell Valley Country Park. It will raise money for Smile for Joel, the charity set up in memory of Joel Richards, Adrian Evans and Pat Evans. Joel's mother Suzy Richards urged runners to obtain sponsor forms at smileforjoel.com

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Volunteers praised for flowers' return

VOLUNTEER workers in the Sandwell Valley have been praised for helping introduce wildflower meadows into the beauty spot. The volunteers have worked alongside Sandwell Council staff to introduce native meadow plants into areas in the nature reserve.

Chiefs said the meadows will 'ensure that the meadow plants can grow in the specially-selected areas around the Valley area'. Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure, said: "The volunteers have done great work on traditional hay meadow management in the Valley fields to create some very colourful areas."

Putting students on right course

THE University of Wolverhampton has launched a 'Start Here' advertising campaign to highlight its courses on offer, featuring billboard adverts across the Black Country.

The new clearing website pages give detailed information about what courses are available and how students can apply when they receive their results.

Katharine Clough, director of external relations, said: "Reasons for going through clearing may vary, but the end goal will be the same – to get that all-important place on a course. Visit www.wlv.ac.uk

● Origami – Page 21

Pensions boost at JLR helps profits

A ONE-OFF pension boost has also helped boost profits at Jaguar Land Rover despite heavy costs from launching new vehicles and expanding its factories.

The West Midlands-based luxury car company, which makes its engines on the i54 site beside the M54 at Wolverhampton, also revealed lower wholesale volumes everywhere but at its Chinese joint venture business, as it supplied fewer cars to dealerships around the world.

An inaugural vegan event due for town

A BLACK Country town will welcome its first ever vegan health and lifestyle event.

The Crown Centre in Stourbridge will be packed with more than 40 stalls selling vegan food, goodies and lifestyle products on August 19, from 10.30am to 4pm.

There will be talks and films from leading vegan organisations.

Admission is £1 with proceeds going to the Hillfields Animal Sanctuary.

Busking Payne stuns capital crowd

Liam Payne busking

POPSTAR Liam Payne stunned shoppers with an impromptu busking session outside a tube station.

The Bushbury-born former One Direction star – who has since embarked on a solo career – performed his latest single Get Low with DJ collaborator Zedd in London.

The pair casually rocked up at Oxford Circus tube station before later heading over to Trafalgar Square.

Liam, 23, looked relaxed as crowds quickly gathered to take pictures. He sang and danced around as onlookers formed a circle around him.

Meanwhile Zedd, who collaborated with Liam on Get Low, looked the epitome of cool as he played a keyboard plugged into a backpack he wore over his black and bronze jacket.

The DJ teased they were on their way to an impromptu performance when he posted a video of the duo singing Liam's song Strip That Down in the car together via his Instagram account.

He later posted an image of himself crouched on a pavement with Liam showing off his strength by holding himself upside down on a lamppost.

Dozens of delighted fans posted videos and pictures of the performances on social media.

Payne and girlfriend Cheryl Tweedy welcomed baby Bear into the world in March.

Points deductions as violence halts match

By Joseph Masi

A CRICKET match descended into violence after a row erupted between a player and spectator, it has emerged.

Fordhouses and Old Hill, from the second division of the Birmingham Premier League, have both been sanctioned following the incident at the Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground in Wolverhampton on June 17.

It saw a row break out between Old Hill's Nigel Davenport and spectator Pervaiz Akhtar, the father of a Fordhouses player Shoaib Akhtar. A number of Fordhouses players were asked to enter the field to diffuse the situation by the match umpire before Mr Davenport reportedly struck both Akhtar senior and junior.

Situation

That led to the league's disciplinary committee banning Mr Davenport for 10 games and initially imposing a 48-point deduction on Fordhouses for failing to manage the situation correctly. Old Hill were deducted 24 points for the incident, while Fordhouses saw their deduction reduced to 36 points on appeal. The appeal was overseen by sports barrister Nigel Stelling.

Mr Stelling confirmed the punishment dished out to Fordhouses was due to how they managed the situation.

Fordhouses president, former Wolves director Kevin Threlfall, said he was 'desperately disappointed' by the verdict and insisted that the club had been made 'scapegoats' by the league.

"We believe the points deduction is grossly unfair and disproportionate as there was no physical violence from us," he said. The statement from Mr Stelling revealed Mr Davenport's punishment was limited to 10 games because the incident was out of character.

League chairman Robin Viner said: "I hope both sides can put this incident behind them."

Tributes paid to 'driving force' Graham

Graham Hodson died on Monday morning having been influential in dragging Bilston Town FC upwards

TRIBUTES have been paid to a much-loved football club chairman and community champion who has died at the age of 59.

Graham Hodson dragged Bilston Town up from the doldrums when he took over the club in 2009.

He also founded the the Bilston Partnership Youth Football League in 1998, providing a platform for thousands of youngsters to get involved in the game at grassroots level.

Mr Hodson died on Monday morning after a short battle with cancer. Wolverhampton North East MP and Bilston Town honorary president Pat McFadden said: "Graham was a real local hero. The work he put into running Bilston Town Football Club alongside vice chairman Denise Frankham was truly amazing."

Bilston North councillor Phil Page, said: "Graham was one of the club driving forces. He will be a great loss to Bilston and sorely missed by all who knew him."

Mr Hodson won numerous awards for his work in the community, including an unsung heroes award at this year's Great Big Thank You Awards, an FA award, while most recently the club was presented with the prestigious Queen's Award for voluntary work. Graham is survived by his wife Theresa and two sons, Lee and Steve.

Police open next round of PCSO job applications

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE has opened the latest round of recruitment for dozens of police community support officer (PCSO) posts.

It marks the second time this year the force has advertised for new PCSOs, with the last round of recruitment in January attracting more than 1,000 applications for 80 posts.

The successful candidates from that round are due to begin training next month and will be patrolling the streets by October.

WMP spokeswoman Lara Horsley, said: "The new recruits will be based across the West Midlands and successful candidates will be at the heart of neighbourhood policing, becoming the friendly face of the force throughout the region.

"Applicants do not need specific formal qualifications to apply for the role, however anyone keen to consider a career as a PCSO should have a good standard of education and an ability to communicate effectively both in writing and verbally."

PCSOs are uniformed staff who support the work of police officers in the community. They are considered an integral part of local policing units and their work includes tackling anti-social behaviour.

The new recruits will replace staff who have retired or are due to leave the force over the next year. As a result of budget cuts WMP has lost 2,000 officers in the last seven years.

People aged 18 or over can apply for the PCSO positions. Applications close on August 25. For more details visit jobs.west-midlands.police.uk/

Go-ahead for a nursery at villa

A VICTORIAN villa is to be converted into a nursery for up to 60 children.

Berrington Lodge, between the Shell petrol station and Abbeyfield Parkdale Care Home on Tettenhall Road, has been used as offices. But plans for a nursery, which will employ 10 members of staff, have now been approved by Wolverhampton Council.

Planning documents state: "The proposal is acceptable in relation to the character and appearance of the existing property and the conservation area in which it is sited."

The villa once stood in extensive gardens which have since been developed.

It was designed by prominent local architect George Bidlake and was previously home to the Wolverhampton Chamber of Commerce.

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£3.5m funds trigger the homes work for old Co-op

THE transformation of the former Co-op building opposite The Grand into more than 60 homes has secured £3.5 million to make it a reality.

Work will now start within months on converting part of the building on Lichfield Street – which has been empty for 30 years – into 63 self-contained apartments and studios.

The YMCA Black Country Group has plans to convert the remainder into its own facilities, a café and community studio on the ground floor, social enterprise space and an area for developing creative arts.

This part of the £6m scheme depends on the YMCA securing funding for which an application has been submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The art deco style frontage will be preserved and the Moon Under Water Wetherspoon pub will be unaffected.

The news comes after developer Jessop revealed it has secured funding of £3.5m from the government's Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Previously it had been hoped it could feature the city's Central Youth Theatre (CYT).

The group was set to benefit from £384,000 from the Arts Council to develop a permanent home in Lichfield Street. However delays in drawing up plans left it having to hand back its grant after the deadline passed.

Gas works close roads for weeks

GAS main replacement works are to close roads in a city for three weeks.

Wolverhampton Council has confirmed the two roads in Bradmore need to shut for Cadent Gas to carry out its work.

The first phase will see Little Birches closed at its junction with Birches Barn Road for about 15 metres.

Drivers will be diverted through Birches Barn Road and Hughes Avenue from Monday until September 11.

The next stage will involve closing Addison Road in both directions at its junction with Skidmore Avenue for about 20 metres. There will be a diversion along Skidmore Avenue and Addison Road between September 11 and 28.

Groove on down

HIP-HOP dance company ZooNation are on tour. They will be performing Groove On Down the Road at the Arena Theatre in Wulfruna Street Wolverhampton, on August 31 and September 1 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8.

Cheers! Pub Landlord to be honoured

Al Murray

A POPULAR comedian and the head of builders' merchant Carvers are among 11 to be honoured by the University of Wolverhampton.

Al Murray, famous for his alter ego the Pub Landlord, will receive an honorary Doctor of Social Science in recognition of his contribution towards military history, a major topic of research at the university.

And Henry Carver, Managing Director of Wolverhampton-based Carvers Builders Merchants, will be made an honorary Doctor of Business Administration.

The University awards honorary degrees to people who have made a significant contribution to their field of expertise. This year's cohort will be recognised during graduation ceremonies next month at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre. University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Geoff Layer, said: ""We are proud to recognise the achievements of people across a broad range of specialisms."

Among them is Chris Holmes, now Lord Holmes of Richmond, a former Paralympic swimmer who won nine gold, five silver and one bronze medal across four Games. He will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters.

Progress

Director and filmmaker Michael Cumming, who worked on controversial TV series Brass Eye, will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Arts. He is a graduate of the University.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Chief Fire Officer, Rebecca Bryant, will receive an honorary Doctor of Professional Practice. She was the first woman chief officer to have progressed through the ranks in the UK.

Also recognised are Diversity Consultant for ITV News, Vidar Hjardeng MBE, and former Regional Director for the West Midlands region for the Institute of Directors, John Phillips MBE.

Dame Colette Bowe, chairman of the Banking Standards Board and chairman of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, will receive an honorary Doctor of Business Administration. Environmental scientist Peter N Churchill be awarded an honorary Doctor of Science.

Former president and chair of Interfaith Wolverhampton, Sehdev Bismal, and independent midwife and founder of Midwifery Conversations, Elsie Gayle, will also be honoured.

Henry Carver

Crooks' illegal haul is given to Haven refuge

THE ill-gotten gains of two fraudsters who preyed on vulnerable victims have been gifted to Wolverhampton's Haven refuge to be used by victims of domestic violence.

The collection of goods, which were obtained by criminals Marvin Campbell and Henry Ogunde, were donated to the charity after owners of the items could not be traced.

The Waterloo Road refuge was handed the items by the National Crime Agency and has since offered the goods to families affected by domestic violence, homelessness and abuse.

Senior community fundraiser Jade Secker said: "We are so grateful to the National Crime Agency for thinking of The Haven.

"Vulnerable women and children supported by The Haven have often had to flee their homes at a moment's notice, leaving behind all of their personal possessions and items that make a house a home.

Arrest

"Thanks to the National Crime Agency, donating items like TVs and consoles, we can provide some comfort and a welcoming, familiar atmosphere in our refuges for women and children whilst they come to terms with the trauma they have been through and begin to rebuild their lives away from the fear of abuse."

Items gifted to the refuge, which has been supporting families since 1973, include televisions, sound systems, games consoles and a home massage chair.

Rick Ward, of the National Crime Agency's West Midlands regional operations, said: "All efforts were made to trace potential owners before deciding to donate the items to a very worthy organisation which has extensive experience of helping the type of vulnerable people that Campbell and Ogunde targeted."

Bilston fraudsters Campbell, then 28, and Ogunge, then 33, defrauded victims in the West Midlands to create their £730,000 criminal empire, buying high value goods using fraudulently obtained credit card details.

Henry Ogunde

Marvin Campbell

Some of the seized items that have been donated to The Haven refuge

The pair approached unsuspecting people on the county's streets, treating them to dinner and buying them clothes to gain their trust.The 'money mules' were then used to set up bank accounts and fake companies, as well as moving cash for the criminals, and threatened with violence if they refused.

Ogunde, formerly of Goode Close, was jailed for five-and-a-half years in 2015. His co-defendant, of Willingworth Close, was initially sentenced to eight-and-a-half years, but later received an extra two months for going on the run.

October is domestic awareness month and will see the return of the One Million Steps for The Haven charity event.

Fundraisers will go on a 5K walk through West Park and the city centre, starting at Molineux Stadium, in aid of the charity. For more details go to https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/one-million-steps-for-the-haven-2017-tickets-32431708112.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council aims to snap up spaces

COUNCIL bosses will seek to buy a car park next to the city's railway station to enhance its ongoing £132 million Interchange project.

Corn Hill Street car park, which has 170 spaces, is operated by private firm Gallan Parking. It has been put on the market prompting Wolverhampton Council to agree to make a bid.

A spokesman for the authority said: "The council has only recently been made aware the Corn Hill car park site is on the market – and has acted quickly. The council is looking to purchase this site as it fits in with its long-term development plans for the wider Interchange area."

GP surgery is facing closure

A DOCTORS' surgery in Willenhall is facing the axe. The proposals, which also include scrapping weekend and out-of-hours appointments for five surgeries, will affect more than 30,000 patients.

The Kingfisher Medical Practice at Bentley medical Centre and Keys Family Practice at Willenhall Health Centre could shut. Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)is proposing to close the practice in Churchill Road, Bentley and the one on Field Street in Willenhall. The two look after 4,768 and 4,808 patients.

Station on track for a top award

COSELEY station has been shortlisted for the Best Small Station award by National Rail.

The shortlist comes after a nine-strong team of keen gardeners, who created an extensive garden on Platform 2, caught the eyes of the judging panel.The work was part of London Midland's Adopt a Station scheme.

Faye Lambert, London Midland's head of community rail, said: "A huge thank you to the station adopters and Big Local for adding such value to their local station and community."

The awards are in September.

Firms' window stickers showcase awards win

TRIUMPHANT independent firms have now been issued with window stickers to showcase their success.

There were 12 winners at last month's inaugural Wolverhampton Independent Retail Excellence (WIRE) which were sponsored by our sister daily the Express & Star.

The awards were led by Wolverhampton Business Improvement District (BID) in partnership with the city council.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Poetry in our lingo? That caw be roight!

I'M sure they meant well, but the decision to turn next month's National Poetry Day into a celebration of regional dialects bears all the hallmarks of the ivory-tower academics patronising the hoi-polloi by trying to use a bit of their lingo.

Poets from different parts of the UK have been asked to choose a word exclusive to their local dialect, and write a poem about it.

According to lexicographer Susie Dent, the aim is to "shine a light into a lexicon that's too often overlooked." Which I think, translated into English, means learning about words people in other areas may not be familiar with. Yet isn't exclusivity the whole point of these words?

Believe it or not, most people in the Black Country don't talk about wammels, gleeds, or being clemmed to jeth due to a shortage of bostin fettle in their everyday discourse any more than they doff their cap when the Earl of Dudley trots past in his horse drawn carriage. But we are immensely attached to it because it is part of our heritage, identity, who we are. The last thing we want to hear is some shiny-faced pundit from the Home Counties talking about bibbles and reasty donnies with a curled lip and a knowing smile.

You only have to look at the regions represented by the project to get a flavour of how it is going to pan out. Merseyside, Humberside, Cumbria. Who, outside of the quangocracy, identifies themselves as being from Merseyside? They are from Liverpool, St Helen's, or The Wirral. Cumbria? Didn't exist until 1974, and most of us think of it as being the Lake District. And many years working with a dyed-in-the-wool native of Hull left me in no doubt that references to "Humberside" would not be well-received.

These are areas with no historic or cultural identity, but rather parcels of land drawn up by outside politicians and bureaucrats for the convenience of outside politicians and bureaucrats.

And then we come to the West Midlands, where the problem was highlighted perfectly by the BBC vox pop on the word that had been chosen to represent the area, "bobowler".

Now I know what a bobowler is. You probably know what one is. But the presenters could barely contain their amusement at the obscurity of the work, and nobody the roving reporter spoke to had a clue what it meant . Which is not that surprising, really.

Because bobowler – a butterfly or large moth – is unique to the Black Country. And the BBC man was asking people in central Birmingham.

Bostin, ay it? Yo caw put a price on that.

Adventurers abound alongside amiable antipodeans

Grylls and spills – exploring a headline which was in a national newspaper

Adventurer Pen Hadow – poles apart from sanity? As he returns on his chilly quest

Australian High Commissioner Alexander Downer, not at all living up to his name

Snow way for Pen to reach pole goal

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

CONFUSING headline of the week. "I survived on insects like Bear Grylls, says man lost in outback for three days." (Daily Telegraph).

ANYONE else confused by Hugh's (Josh Whitehouse) plea to the lovely Demelza (Eleanor Tomlinson) in the finale of Poldark (BBC1)? Hugh is going blind and mumbling a bit. As far as I could hear, he told Mrs Poldark that he wanted a snog in order to go into the darkness "knowing I once tasted Devon." Heaven, apparently.

IN May 1998, for reasons I won't tire you with, I was standing on an ice floe 200 miles from the North Pole at 20 degrees below zero, watching a councillor from Wolverhampton trying to persuade an Arctic explorer to pack it in and come home (like I say, it's complicated). The explorer, Pen Hadow, was making absolutely no progress on his way to the pole. Every day he trekked a few miles north across the floes and pitched his tent. As he slept, the floes drifted a few miles south. But, despite the pain, cold and polar bears, he refused to be rescued. All we could do, after a perilous 14-hour flight to find him, was give him extra food and a small boat and wish him well. Hadow carried on trekking north for a few more days before being rescued by a navy vessel. Now, at 55, he's off again, leading a party trying to sail two yachts to the pole to demonstrate climate change. Back in '98 he struck me as utterly bonkers and a tad selfish. But above all, a tiny dot at the top of the world, limping on with an injured knee, he looked incredibly vulnerable. I would not have put money on him being alive, let alone still exploring, nearly 20 years later.

IF I learned anything from my Arctic adventure, it is not to eat luke-warm runny egg sandwiches as one's Twin Otter makes its final approach to land on a large piece of ice. This is needlessly adding nausea to terror. One of my few claims to fame is that I have thrown up at 86 degrees north.

ALEXANDER Downer. How did he slip through the net? The Australian High Commissioner popped up on the BBC's flagship radio programme Today this week and dared to utter the O-word about Brexit. Optimism. At a time when the only acceptable liberal-left narrative is that leaving the EU will destroy the country and sentence our grandchildren to eternal serfdom, Downer said some Brits were being a bit too glum. I will not poison your tender minds with more of his antipodean joy. As my mailbox over the past few days shows, some Brits are positively slavering for disaster. They cannot wait for armageddon. They are aching to embrace dereliction. How dare some cheerful Aussie walk on their dreams?

A BBC schools video on Roman Britain features a black soldier. The historian Mary Beard says Roman Britain was indeed ethnically diverse. For this, she has been pilloried on social media (why don't we call it antisocial media?). Consider what Rudyard Kipling, proud spokesman for the British Empire and the man who urged us to "Take up the white man's burden," had to say on the subject. You might imagine that Kipling, of all people, would believe in an ethnically pure, all-white ancient Britain. Not so. In his poem about the Thames, The River's Tale, he writes: "And Norseman and Negro and Gaul and Greek / Drank with the Britons in Barking Creek ." A black face in Londinium 1,800 years ago would have attracted no more attention than it does today.

THANKS for your horror stories of deliveries by couriers. I loved the tale from a reader who received a text message that a parcel would be delivered to his address at 11am. Which was odd because he wasn't expecting anything. Next came a text with an image, apparently showing the parcel delivered by his side door. It turned out the photo was of somebody else's side door. The parcel, which had nothing to do with him, had been safely delivered to an address in Liverpool. The reader lives in Walsall.

THANKS, too, for your tales about dodgy pub quizzes. They reminded me of the one occasion when I objected to a quiz result, on the grounds that the rules stipulated teams of four and the "winning" team had six. "Oh, it's just a bit of fun," laughed their captain, collecting a handsome prize. Depends on what you call fun.

YOU are about to leave a restaurant and ask for the bill. "How much would you like to pay?" says the waiter. "Just the bill, please," you insist. "Yes," says the waiter, "but how much?" Bonkers? Of course it is. Yet this is how Britain's "divorce bill" from the European Union is being decided. They want us to suggest a figure. We should tell Brussels to do the sums and give us a properly itemised invoice. Then we can move on to the "I never had fried rice" argument, followed by tearing up the bill and rushing for the door.

TALKING POINT

Cyclists: Go bike to basics on safety

DRIVING home down the dark country lanes I cornered – luckily quite slowly – to be confronted by not one, but two cyclists.

As they were riding two abreast and pretty much taking up most of that side of the road I had two options: I go round them, right across the other side of the road, putting myself and drivers on the other side at risk; or I wait until they put their brains into gear to choose the safer option to cycle single file.

Yes you guessed it, no thought on their behalf and I am forced to do the former, thankfully there was nothing coming the other way although I still had to drive behind them for around half a mile before it was safe to go past – blind corners.

How many times has this situation been the case? And I have to say on most occasions it has been cyclists wearing the tops with their cycling club name on the back. I feel tempted to ring the club up and tell them how irresponsible this is. It's not the thing that most 'Joe Bloggs' cyclists do. Surely if you are a member of a club you should know how to ride safely, even if you are racing against the clock. My husband and I recently returned from France where most of the cities and towns are well-blessed with cycle lanes and they are very well used. But even with the advantage of these special lanes the cyclists do not abuse the system by straying outside the lines and into the drivers' area.

When our children were small they all had bikes and we would go on rides as a family. They were always taught to keep single file, cycle in the middle of the line with adults taking the front and back positions, and never to ride alongside chatting to each other.

Another thing that was a no-no was cycling with headphones on. My husband drove behind a cyclist and tooted to show that the rider was straying to the middle of the road. He totally ignored him. When he finally passed, he realised why – headphones with music blasting in his ears. He had no idea there was even a car there, and yes, he was a club cyclist!

And just one more gripe, years ago, not a safety issue this time, more one of good taste. We once had a colleague who cycled into work – very admirable – the only problem was when he got here he did get changed but left his sweaty clothes and, even worse his trainers, steaming at the side of the office. Not pleasant. Fortunately he has now left and no doubt is stinking out somebody else's office. Not nice but at least this won't kill you!!

SUE ATTWATER

● **See next week's Talking Point as we give the cyclist's verdict on drivers.**

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Get in! Leisure centre is saved deep into extra time

A LEISURE centre at a school controversially shut last month has been rescued in extra time with council officials keeping it open to the public.

Coseley Leisure Centre, part of The Coseley School site, was facing closure but will now stay open despite the school being closed.

The centre, first opened in the 70s but which has seen thousands of pounds spent on improvements over the years, includes a sports hall for five-a-side football, three squash courts, a small gym, cricket nets, a drama theatre and changing rooms.

It was feared the centre, in Henne Drive, would also be forced to shut its doors with the school, but bosses at Dudley Council have said they are determined to keep it open until the site is redeveloped. They said keeping the centre open was 'in the best interests of the community'.

The now-closed Coseley School

It will come as good news to the clubs and groups that use it.

Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "It would have been a shame to lose the facility when a lot of money has been spent on it. It's good news it has been able to be kept open for residents, and youngsters and sports teams will be able to continue to use it."

A plan for a new £6 million free school at the site has been lodged. The Coseley School was closed due to dwindling pupil numbers and poor performance – but the decision sparked a massive backlash from parents.

The Collegiate Academy Trust, which includes the Shireland Collegiate Academy, is keen to take over the site and it is uncertain what such a move would mean for the sports centre.

If approved, the school would be known as the Coseley Technology Primary. It would cater for 420 pupils when full, while offering an additional 52 pre-school places. It is one of three new free primary schools being developed by the trust.

Plans are also progressing to build schools in Darlaston and Willenhall.

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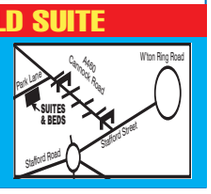

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Electrickery: The big con revealed

IN trying to keep tabs on the UK energy market, I write to let you know the wholesale price of natural gas, which incidentally is rarely quoted in the media, has fallen again to 33 pence/therm.

One would think that it would be good for the consumer of energy. Wrong! As this in no way is connected to the cost that the consumer pays for energy. When the price falls the supplier just pockets the profit, which is never passed on. This means that since last October when gas was 51 pence/therm, the wholesale price has fallen by 35 per cent, yet the latest quotes from comparison sites – which always show the best deals for comparison sites, never the best ones for the consumer – have increased combined gas and electric prices by 18 per cent.

This cannot be right. Suppliers buy forward, so the customer fails to benefit.

MARK COOPER
Wolverhampton

BBC? It's just sports channel

I THOUGHT that the BBC had packed up already and become the new sports channel!

It's so easy to send a cameraman and a commentator off to the nearest sport venue then everyone can enjoy time off.

Of course they do sometimes include a few other things like the news, or Bargain Hunt repeats.

I am lucky enough to not have to pay for a licence. But I would gladly do so if there was a new channel with no sex, swearing, sadism or sport, but that will never happen.

Where are all those important people who pick up huge wages?

Anyway not to worry, it will soon be the football season, so they can all clear off to Spain, which is probably where they are already!

AUDREY BLOUNT
Penn

Please help me search for father

I AM searching for my birth father John Thompson. He was born in 1941 to my grandparents Lily and Ernest Thompson in Wednesbury. John was the youngest of five children.

He met my birth mother Pamela Main while they were in the army. They had three children – Stephen John, born 1961 who died as a baby; my sister Susan born July 7, 1962; myself born March 20, 1964 as Margaret, now Jayne.

My birth parents split up and my sister and I were put up for adoption. We were adopted by kind and loving Dennis and Janice Blakemore in 1967. We lived at the Royal Oak pub, Bridgnorth Road, Shropshire, during our childhood.

Apparently I was named Margaret after my birth father's sister. I do know that John got remarried and worked at Goodyear Wolverhampton for many years.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

JAYNE BLAKEMORE
32 Hertford Road, Manchester, M9 8BW.
jayneblakemore50@gmail.com
07986 744509

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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EU: It will lose more than us

I WOULD like to ask Roger Watts why it is nonsense when we Brexiteers say that the EU has more to lose than us in the Brexit negotiations. The EU is very much in favour of the EU, in other words, the value of goods and services they sell to us far outweighs the value of goods and services we sell to them, so yes, the EU does actually stand to lose far more than us.

I agree with Mr Watts on the deliberate misleading of the younger voters by Jeremy Corbyn. It is no coincidence that younger voters registered in their droves after hearing the promises that Corbyn made. One was to abolish university fees and write-off any existing loans.

M B WILLIS
Wombourne

Reports give us bad news

CERTAIN commentators seem to think we are going through a period of positive economic news. Let us review the recent news.

Government figures show that UK GDP grew 0.3 per cent in the second quarter, a substantial reduction on the previous year. Manufacturing and export sectors were flat. The Bank of England has announced that it will tighten the lending rules for banks. Consumer borrowing will become harder.

The OECD reports that gross savings have fallen substantially since mid-2016, meaning consumers have less easily available cash.This is bad news.

DAVID TAYLOR
Wombourne

Young are brainwashed as Christianity gets removed

WHEN reading the news these days I often think, as a child of the 50s, that I've suddenly awakened in a parallel universe where every moral and ethical certitude that I and many others have cherished throughout our lives, and indeed for those of many centuries before, are suddenly turned on their heads.

It seems to me that we are now encouraged and coerced into tolerating the intolerable, accepting the unacceptable and embracing ideas that we find personally offensive but dressed up as wholesome, politically correct diversity. A country where any dissent is deeply frowned upon and can be punishable, when robustly expressed, by the full force of the law. The word 'brainwashing' springs to mind.

I truly believe that this has all come about since we allowed trendy educationalists, aided and abetted by successive education secretaries, including the current incumbent, Justine Greening, to remove Christianity from our schools.

It was replace it with a form of social, sexual and behavioural inclusiveness, where anything goes so long as you don't frighten the horses. I can't help but feel sorry for brainwashed young.

JOHN DAVENPORT
Wednesfield

Let them have the spit guards

I SEE the righteous brigade are out again, Liberty and all the other human rights and do-gooders, up in arms about the use of spit guards being issued to our police force.

I have in my time been smacked, punched and nutted, but the worst assault ever on my face is to be spat on.

The vile thought of people I see walking down the street spitting makes me want to wretch.

So to Liberty and all the people up in arms about human rights – let someone spit in your face with all the vile germs it carries – let's see if you turn the other cheek.

KEITH PARTON
Wolverhampton

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Emotional final farewell for Burma Star veteran

THERE was an emotional final farewell to 94-year-old Burma Star veteran Howard Beech.

Members of the Burma Star Association turned out to pay their respects to the war hero.

Family and friends also gathered at the intimate service on Friday to pay tribute to Mr Beech at St Leonard's Church in Bilston.

The veteran fought as part of the Burma campaign, which took place between 1944 and 1945. It saw conflict between the British and Imperial Japan, Thailand and the Indian National Army. Among those paying their respects were grandchildren Alex, Sarah, Lyndsey and Loyd, and nephew Keith Beech at the service.

Howard Beech died aged 94

Bugler Jim Cornes sounds a salute

The funeral procession for Howard enters St Leonard's Church, Bilston

Stunning

Keith, 77, said: "It was absolutely stunning, proper military, a proper job. He's like a second dad to me, he was a lovely man and he deserved every second of today.

"The whole day, what a lovely day, we shouldn't forget our soldiers.

"The whole family were absolutely chuffed. It was really very nice.

Born on November 16, 1922, in Bilston, Mr Beech later married Zelma, his wife of more than 60 years.

Upon arriving back from war to Wolverhampton, he was admitted to hospital for shell shock. Like many others returning from the horrors of the Burma conflict, he was suffering heavily and wasn't able to remember the boat ride back from Vietnam.

Mr Beech said of his military service: "He was deployed to Vietnam, and he was deployed on artillery practice with the 4th regiment.

"He had a really, really rough time over there. He served with the 114th Jungle Field Regiment Royal Artillery.

"I was very, very close with Howard."

Leading the service, Reverend Brian Prentice said: "Today we have come to remember Howard and to give thanks.

"We're here to honour someone who lived his life to the full.

"He loved his football, he was a Wolves fan," Reverand Prentice added. "He would speak his mind if he had to, he didn't suffer fools."

As part of a written tribute, son Paul's note read: "We were hoping he would make it to 100 but sadly this was not to be.

"Howard passed away very unexpectedly exactly two years to the time and day that his wife passed."

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Award-winning housebuilder, McCarthy and Stone, specialises in creating stunning collections of ideally located, low maintenance apartments, thoughtfully designed to ensure homeowners can enjoy retirement to the full – and the brand new development in Tettenhall will be no exception.

The Retirement PLUS development on Wood Road will comprise of 58 luxurious, privately owned apartments, with many properties featuring balconies and terraces. Homeowners will enjoy independent living at its best, with the opportunity to enjoy friendship and companionship if they choose to, and privacy when they want it.

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In addition to the homeowners' lounge, facilities will include a fabulous bistro serving freshly prepared meals, with the option to invite friends and family too. There will be a luxury guest suite should visitors come to stay. The development will have its very own Estates Manager, who will take care of the smooth-running of the development; while a security entrance system and 24 hour emergency call points provide added peace of mind for homeowners and their families. Situated in the heart of Tettenhall, the shops and amenities on the adjacent High Street means homeowners can easily pop in for a spot of shopping or get to a doctor's appointment under their own steam.

McCarthy & Stone has recently been awarded a five star customer satisfaction rating from the Home Builders Federation for the 12th year running. Anyone interested in Retirement PLUS Living on Wood Road Tettenhall are invited to invited to register their interest. Sales launch will be in early November.

Typical restaurant

For more information about Retirement Living PLUS, please call **0800 201 4404** or visit **www.mccarthyandstone.co.uk/tettenhall-rlp**

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Propeller smash pilot: I swore I was going to die

A FORMER RAF engineer was smashed in the face by the propeller of his own plane in a freak accident, leaving him with serious injuries.

Dominic Whelan, from Willenhall, 'thought he was going to die' when he was slashed by the blade as he carried out work on his microlight at Otherton Airfield in Penkridge.

Four weeks later he wrecked the aircraft, nicknamed Floaty McFloatface, in a crash. Mr Whelan and his 15-year-old son Michael escaped unhurt.

But the 42-year-old has not been put off flying and has even kept the propeller as a souvenir of the day he describes as being 'like a Carry On film'.

Jumped

A report into the accident in March revealed how his plane, a Mercury microlight, had jumped over a block put in front of its wheel to keep it in place, and rolled forward 10 feet.

Fearing for the safety of another man at the airfield, off Micklewood Lane, Mr Whelan leapt out of his plane to get the chock without turning off the propellers.

Not being able to see the propellers as they were going at such speed, the former RAF serviceman leant down to get the block from the back of the plane when he was struck across the face by the propeller. He said: "When I did it it took a couple of seconds to realise what had happened. I put my hand to my face, saw the claret coming down, and felt a hole. I fell forward and swore I was going to die. Who would not feel that when they have just been struck by a five foot propeller?"

His partner, 39-year-old Rachel Daker, added: "The first thing he did was phone us as he was holding his face together. I didn't realise how bad it was and so I went home first to get some plasters and bandages."

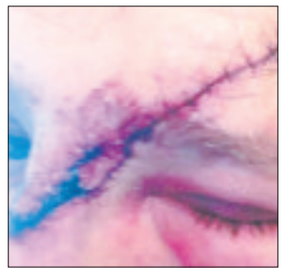
Men working at the airfield rushed to Mr Whelan's aid but it soon became like a scene out of a Carry On film, he says, as an air ambulance despatched to take him to Royal Stoke Hospital had no fuel and the ambulance he was then put in got stuck in mud.

Eventually he made it to the trauma centre at the north Staffordshire hospital and after several hours and more than two dozen stitches he was allowed home to Pooles Lane. Mr Whelan still bares a scar across his face from the accident five months ago and admits his face still hurts every day.

The newly-published Air Accident Investigation Branch report into the incident on March 26 states Mr Whelan had just 33 hours flying experience before the accident. But he has dismissed claims he was a 'novice', having served in the RAF for 13 years and being around planes for 20 years.

"It was just a lapse in concentration," he said.

Dominic Whelan, aged 42, and propeller


His injuries, which required 24 stitches

A microlight similar to Mr Whelan's

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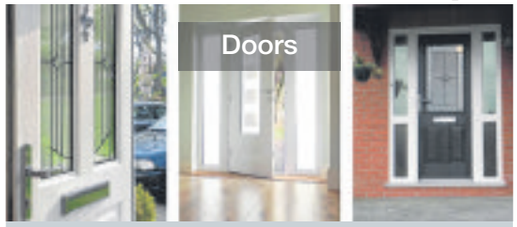

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Recovering well – Beverley Knight

Our Bev ensures fans she is on the road to recovery and will be back 'in weeks'

By Clare Butler

BEVERLEY KNIGHT is recovering after a hysterectomy – and has vowed to bounce back within weeks.

The 44-year-old West End singer from Wolverhampton has been recuperating in the sunshine abroad after her operation.

The usually super-fit star has been knocked off her feet but, spurred on by a flood of hometown support, Our Bev is getting back to health.

And her management said she is looking to be back at work 'over the next few weeks' after her hysterectomy. She posted pictures and a video of herself at the exclusive Juicy Oasis yoga and fitness retreat in Portugal.

Bev said: "I feel great nine weeks post surgery and am ready to tour. I am in good health, thank you for all your wishes for me. I'm feeling good and my hysterectomy recovery is really good, so I will see you all on stage soon."

Well-wishers have been quick to offer support to her online too, including fellow Wolves fans. Rob Jones tweeted: "Hope you're on the mend. Just in time for the football season #utw", to which Beverley replied: "I am thank you! The championship is looking like fire this season! Xxx"

Her I Love Soulsville tour scheduled for June has been postponed until October.

The former Highfields School pupil has rearranged the gigs for October 1 to 18 – with the Birmingham date set for October 8 at the Symphony Hall. Beverley, given an MBE in 2007, is also set to step on stage in her first-ever pantomime this year in Birmingham Hippodrome's Cinderella from December 19.

Bulldozers will start transforming estate

WORK is due to begin on clearing a site to make way for 360 homes to transform a rundown estate in Heath Town.

Builders are expected to move on to Chervil Rise to start bulldozing shops, homes and offices on October 30, making way for a multi-million pound development.

The 368 new homes will be on the former Long Ley School site, Chervil Rise shopping precinct and playground on Hobgate Road.

The site clearance is expected to take several months with a provisional completion date of next July.

The plans show a mixture of one and two-bedroom apartments, two-bedroom bungalows and two, three and four-bedroom houses, and include green spaces, play areas and car parking as well as homes.

The project is being led by Wolverhampton Council's own housing services department.

Online appeal raises £5,000 to fly body of Dionne home

By Marion Brennan

MORE than £5,000 has been raised through a crowd-funding drive to bring home the body of a mother who fell from a hotel window to her death in Greece.

Dionne Abrahams, aged 20, was on holiday with a friend on the island of Crete when tragedy struck last month.

Her grief-stricken family faced the additional burden of finding the money to fly her body home to Wolverhampton.

Dionne Abrahams

But a fundraising bid set up by a family friend was inundated with donations and raised more than the £5,000 target within days. The gofundme campaign, called Bring Dionne Home, was launched by Luci Grewal who paid tribute to the 'fun-loving, caring and loyal' mother-of-one.

Ms Abrahams, of Thorne Avenue, Low Hill, had been out socialising on the night of Saturday, July 15, and returned to her hotel alone. But around 2.30am on July 16 she fell from a window and died on the way to hospital due to injuries sustained to her head.

An inquest at the Black Country Coroner's Court on Friday was adjourned until November 6 while further investigations into her death are carried out by both British and Greek authorities.

Coroner Zafar Siddique said they needed to ascertain who was with her, who last saw her, with whom she was travelling and where she was staying. The family are said to be making their own investigations but declined to comment any further.

However, relatives took to social media to thank those who had helped raise more than £5,200.

Tracie Lewis wrote: "On behalf of Dionne's family, I would like to personally thank each and everyone of you for ur kind words and donation..this is a tragedy we was not prepared for..we so desperately need to bring her home and it would not be possible without all ur support."

Niece Jazmine Lewis wrote: "As a family we are truly grateful for the support everyone has shown it means so much. My auntie will soon return home where she belongs."

On the gofundme website, Ms Grewal had written: "Anyone who knew Dionne, knew she was a loving, caring, energetic and loyal person who could make anyone laugh. Her family and friends just want Dionne to come home."

A sum of £5,230 was raised in total. Her inquest will resume on November 6.

Flats plan for butchers gets the council chop

PLANS to turn a family butchers into a 19 flats, have been rejected by the council and called an "over-development".

Plans were submitted to turn the family-run Garbett's Butchers in Hilton Street, Wolverhampton into a 19-bedroom HMO.

City of Wolverhampton planning officer, Martyn Gregory, said: "The development would constitute an over-development of this property, affectively creating separate additional units of accommodation, providing inadequate parking facilities for residents and visitors."

Nearby neighbours objected to the develpment saying that it would harm residential amenity, particularly through increased noise nuisance, anti-social behaviour and incidences of crime.

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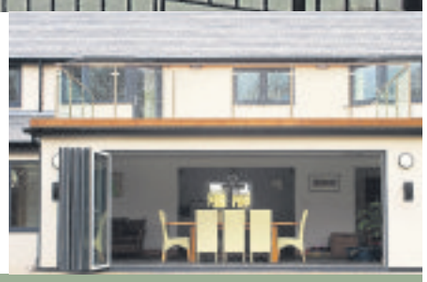

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Arrests of children see decrease by 64 per cent

CHILD arrests across Staffordshire and the West Midlands have dropped by more than 60 per cent, latest figures show.

The number of children arrested by West Midlands Police has decreased by 64 per cent in the last six years, while arrests by Staffordshire Police have dropped by 68 per cent in the same period.

By Jack Averty

The figures have been released by the Howard League for Penal Reform, which launched a programme in 2010 to keep as many children out of the criminal justice system as possible.

Research by the charity found West Midlands Police made 5,244 arrests of children aged 17 and under last year, down from 14,387 in 2010. Staffordshire Police made 1,350 arrests last year, down from 4,163 in 2010.

Brigg Ford, a spokesman for West Midlands Police, said the force 'could not speculate' as to why there had been such a severe drop in the figures. Staffordshire Police said it was looking to further reduce the number of children it arrests.

Inspector Martin Steventon, from the force's integrated offender management team, said: "Staffordshire Police continues to work closely with partner agencies, such as the youth offending services and national bodies, as we aim to further reduce the number of children arrested.

"Our priority is to ensure due consideration is given to utilising tactics that do not require an arrest to be made but nevertheless result in an intervention for the young person, and a positive outcome for the victim."

Across England and Wales, the total number of arrests has fallen by 64 per cent in six years – from almost 250,000 in 2010 to 87,525 in 2016.

Fancy that! Runners marking anniversary

The Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Elias Mattu starts the Junior Parkrun on its second anniversary

YOUNGSTERS celebrated the second anniversary of a weekly run at a special event.

The Wednesfield Junior Parkrun, which recently turned two, gives four-to-14-year-olds the chance to complete a 2km circuit around Wednesfield Park every Sunday.

Those taking part can run, jog or walk at their own pace, and parents are able to join in if they wish. A party was held to mark the second anniversary, started by mayor Councillor Elias Mattu, with young runners encouraged to dress in superhero fancy dress.

Daniel Plimmer, aged five, said: "I look forward to taking part in the junior parkrun each week because of the lovely people who cheer me on. And I get to run with my dad which is great."

Beth Lister, aged nine, volunteers as a Junior Parkrun director. She said: "I like to encourage other children to run their best."

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Queen Square with horse drawn carts around 1912

Queen Square around 1912 – ladders were kept there by the fire brigade if needed

Lea Road junction with Birches Barn Road in the 30s

Focus on city and how it was in bygone age

IT'S hard to imagine Wolverhampton without cars and bus lanes but these photos show it in a different light.

Unpaved roads, trams, early motor cars and horse-drawn vehicles reveal the city's humble past during the early 20th century.

The collection of high-definition old photos are courtesy of Dave Clare, a keen amateur photographer, who is one part of the duo behind the Wolverhampton in Old Photographs Facebook group.

Members are keeping the memories alive on the social group which now boasts more than 21,000 members.

Wolverhampton-born Mr Clare has fittingly worked at some of the city's most well-known establishments, including Banks's brewery, Beatties, Bilston College, Wolverhampton Polytechnic and then the University of Wolverhampton, from where he retired in 2010.

Starting as a keen amateur photographer in the early 1970s, he began systematically recording photographs of each street and all the main buildings, and returning to record the changes as they occurred.

MEMORY LANE

By Doug Wootton

Being limited by the cost of film and processing, he also started collecting old photographs and postcards of the town, to bolster his collection.

Stages

Mr Clare's collection of photos shows the city at various stages throughout the 20th century and has now been digitally indexed.

He said: "In 1972 I noticed large areas of the town centre were about to be cleared for building the stretch of ring road from Stafford Street, crossing over Broad Street, Walsall Street, Bilston Street and Cleveland Road round to Dudley Road.

"Whole streets would disappear, with houses, shops, pubs, public buildings and other landmarks.

"I've been collecting old photographs and postcards of the town from junk shops, antique dealers, postcard dealers and online auctions and now have thousands of images, all stored digitally and indexed for quick retrieval.

"Members of the group also send me their photographs to be added to the collection – my policy is to make all images available to everyone, preferably online."

Online there are images from the collection of the late Stanley Webb, who was a local transport enthusiast and historian. .

David Clare wrote the Wolverhampton: Photographic Memories book, originally published in 2005, which contains 75 detailed period photographs of the city.

The Wolverhampton in Old Photographs online group was set-up four years ago by Nigel Caddick. New members are welcome and are invited to apply to join.

Queen Square looking towards Darlington Street

Lichfield Street looking from Princess Square – 1924

The Midland Counties Penn Road dairy – built in the 30s

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"It's all about ideas," he adds. "We aren't just here to bring your dream kitchen to life, we're here to help build that dream in the first place.

The Dream Doors showroom in Newbridge Road, Tettenhall

"With our extensive range of more than 100 doors to our huge choice of worktops, appliances and storage solutions, we'll help to shape your dream kitchen . . . and then bring it to life." says Richard.

After completion, every customer has the opportunity to review Dream Doors overall performance for quality, reliability, timekeeping and workmanship through the independent consumer monitoring website, Checkatrade.com, and with more than 200 reviews Dream Doors are getting an average score of 9.8 out of 10.

Book a FREE consultation with the Dream Doors showroom today on 01902 752200.

The interior of the impressive Dream Doors showroom

Family 'totally proud' of plaque honouring JW Hunt

A PLAQUE paying tribute to an historic amateur football competition has been unveiled by the founder's family.

The JW Hunt Cup has run every season since 1926/27 and has raised more than £320,000 for the Beacon Centre for the Blind in that time.

It features clubs from across the West Midlands and each year the final is held at Molineux. Now it has been commemorated with a blue plaque, facilitated by Wolverhampton Civic and Historical Society, unveiled at Wolves' stadium.

Its permanent location is on the wall of the Wolverhampton City Archives, housed at the former Molineux Hotel. Present were two descendants of the cup's founder, John William Hunt, a local businessman and benefactor. He founded the Chillington Tool Company in 1892 and was known to promote good working conditions for his staff.

Jon and Tim Hunt unveil the blue plaque

His great-grandson, Jon Hunt, said: "Today we are totally proud. It was only a few years ago I was doing family research and I discovered about JW Hunt and the connection to this cup. I realised it was still being played and got in touch with the organisers and they have kept me informed with developments ever since."

Tim Hunt, JW Hunt's great-great-grandson, added: "We are still very much learning all about him and the cup but there is no doubt we are incredibly proud. He appears to have been so respected by his workers."

The first ever JW Hunt cup final was played at Molineux on Thursday, April 14, 1927, with Short Heath United beating Cannon 2-0. The attendance was over 1,000 and £13 9s (£13.45) was raised.

This season's final was won by Alvechurch FC who defeated Wednesfield FC 4-1. Cup president Alex Hamil said: "What makes this cup so special is the people. Everyone around here knows someone who had played in it, whether it be their granddad or their cousin.

"Every year more than 1,000 turn up to the final. It is part of history."

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Fans' version of events are put on iPlayer

THE dramatic collection of stories told by Aston Villa, Baggies and Birmingham City fans in the stage production Stadium can now be watched for free on the BBC iPlayer.

A star of the show, which ran at the Birmingham Rep earlier in the year, was fundraiser Blind Dave Heeley.

Described as 'the drama of theatre meets the thrill of football', Stadium features real stories and memories from fans from across the Midlands footballing spectrum. There is footage of interviews, insights, music and songs from fans and inspirational supporters as well as some match action.

Also live testimonies from devoted supporters including Baggies fan Dave. Among the highlights are a bagpiper who has played at hundreds of matches and the bride who got married in the colours of her beloved Blues and the Villa Rockets Powerchair football team.

Talking about his role during the theatre run Dave said: "The story is primarily about Blues and Villa fans, I think they've thrown me into the mix for a bit of Premier League class.

"I couldn't do this as a profession though – you're on for three minutes, then you're waiting about for three hours."

Stadium is available to view on BBC iPlayer until September 6 at http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p05939yf/stadium

Warehouse scheme prompts site visit

COUNCILLORS are to visit a warehouse to decide whether it should be allowed to be turned into shared housing.

An application has been lodged with Sandwell Council to convert the unit, on Pennant Road, Cradley Heath, into a house of multiple occupation, featuring 20 rooms.

Reel life for amazing Dave

"STUFF like this doesn't happen to us lads in West Bromwich." That is how legendary fundraiser Blind Dave Heeley summed up his thoughts about the movie which is being made about his life.

The man himself says he is 'pinching himself' about his journey featuring on the silver screen. He is the first blind man to complete seven marathons in seven continents in seven days, and has also finished the gruelling Escape from Alcatraz swim. In 2011, Blind Dave ran 10 marathons in 10 days from John O'Groats to Land's End.

He also took part in a 700-mile week-long bike ride between Zurich and Birmingham in 2012.

Currently, he is in the middle of finishing each of the 25 (check) Great Run events in a year.

The 40-minute film about his life – entitled 7 Days – will be released later this year. The 59-year-old said: "I feel quite privileged and also very proud that somebody wants to do it.

Excited

"When the book came out I still didn't really believe I'd had a book published and what had happened in my life was between the covers.

"Stuff like this doesn't happen to us lads in West Bromwich.

"After the book a few people came up to me and said 'we've got to get a film done'. Then Nigel got this production company involved, they read up on me and it went from there. When they told me what they were planning to do I was left with an open mouth – thinking 'this doesn't happen to people like me'. I'm quite excited for it. To be honest I think it's absolutely bloody fantastic.

"The support I've had from a lot of people in recent times – including the Baggies, where I've been on the pitch and got the Freedom of The Hawthorns – has been unbelievable."

A film poster to promote the film

Dave seen when he brought out his autobiography

Fellow adventurer Sir Ranulph Fiennes with Dave

A proud moment for Dave as Olympic torch bearer

The film, called 7 Days, will be about 40 minutes long so it can be shown at specific movie festivals. But the producers said they are hopeful that if it gets a positive response then it could be turned into a feature film.

Blind Dave said: "It's going to be a short film and hopefully it gets the message across to people that anything is possible.

"It will focus on me doing the seven marathons but also have flashbacks to when I was younger and losing my sight.

"I think the way they are planning to do it will be very powerful. Hopefully it should inspire people.

"I'm still pinching myself about the book – now I'm pinching myself about this film.

"With it being 40 minutes or so they will be able to put it in certain film festivals but they hope if there's a good response it may attract funding so they could do a feature film."

Blind Dave joked that Brad Pitt 'wasn't good looking enough' to be cast as the Baggies fan in the feature.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the man dubbed 'the world's greatest living explorer, said: "I was very pleased to hear a film project about Blind Dave Heeley is going to be made.

"He is an inspirational athlete and gentleman – I look forward to seeing it."

Former Aston Villa owner Sir Doug Ellis, who is an executive producer on the film, said: "I was glad to support this film about Blind Dave Heeley.

"It will inspire many. His story will show it's not about what you can't do – it's about what you can do."

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So pleased – Will Simkin

Fruit farm meets gold award aim

A BUTCHERS shop has won several prestigious national awards in the 'Oscars' of the food world.

Essington Fruit Farm, near Wolverhampton, had two of their products receive gold stars from Good Taste Awards.

The awards are organised by the Guild of Fine Food which rates hundreds of retailers across the UK. The fruit farm's home-cured back bacon won two-gold stars, while their pork sausages got one – the highest rating is three.

Will Simkin, director of Essington Fruit Farm, said: "It's the first time we've gone for a national award so we're really pleased with the outcome."

The farm, which alongside cattle, has about 250 pigs, rears them in the open and the pigs have a "nice life" according to Mr Simkin who said this transfers to the taste.

The 35-year-old added: "I think it's becoming increasingly important to people to know where their meat is coming from."

Packing a punch with gym fit for the Saudi princesses

A FITNESS instructor from Bilston has been putting Saudi princesses through their paces. Rebecca Jones recently returned from the Arab nation.

While there she found herself working at a gym owned by the country's royal family and was stunned to be asked to train princesses.

She said: "The gym I worked for was run by a royal princess and her business partner, and they believed it was every woman's right to exercise.

"We have an image of Muslim women which is not true. The ones I met and worked with were inspiring. Their girl power was amazing.

"I was personal trainer to one of the princesses and another came to the legs, bums and tums class. It was not what I was expecting. Muslim women don't do PE at school and are not encouraged to take part in exercise.

"The women who came to the gym had to ask their husbands' or fathers' permission to come to the courses, but it's a step in the right direction."

The 24-year-old former pupil of St Thomas More

By Marion Brennan

Catholic School in Willenhall is set to launch her own fitness courses back in her home town after returning fom the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh in January.

She is to hold classes at the Iron Factory in Oxford Street, Bilston. After leaving school, she studied for sporting diplomas at Bilston College before travelling the world teaching nutrition on cruise ships. She took the Middle East post to increase her experience.

She plans to run courses with a maximum of six people on each to give maximum attention.

"Exercise can be scary stuff for people who don't go to the gym – but the idea is that I teach people how to train themselves so, in the end, they don't need me," she said.

Rebecca – stunned to be asked to train princesses

Out on quad bike in the desert

Rebecca at the gym in Saudi Arabia

MP backs push for a green area

VILLAGERS have been supported by an MP in their bid to turn a plot of land into a village green for community events.

The village of Brinsford has been gifted with a plot of land by the Prison Service but plans to turn it into a village green have been rejected by Featherstone and Brinsford Parish Council.

Supporters of the proposal believe it will contribute towards community cohesion as well as reducing isolation within the village.

However, those who are keen to see this proposal pushed forward have been forced to appeal the recent decision to scrap the plans.

Gavin Williamson, MP for South Staffordshire, met with residents to discuss their plans and said he would urge the council to reconsider their plans.

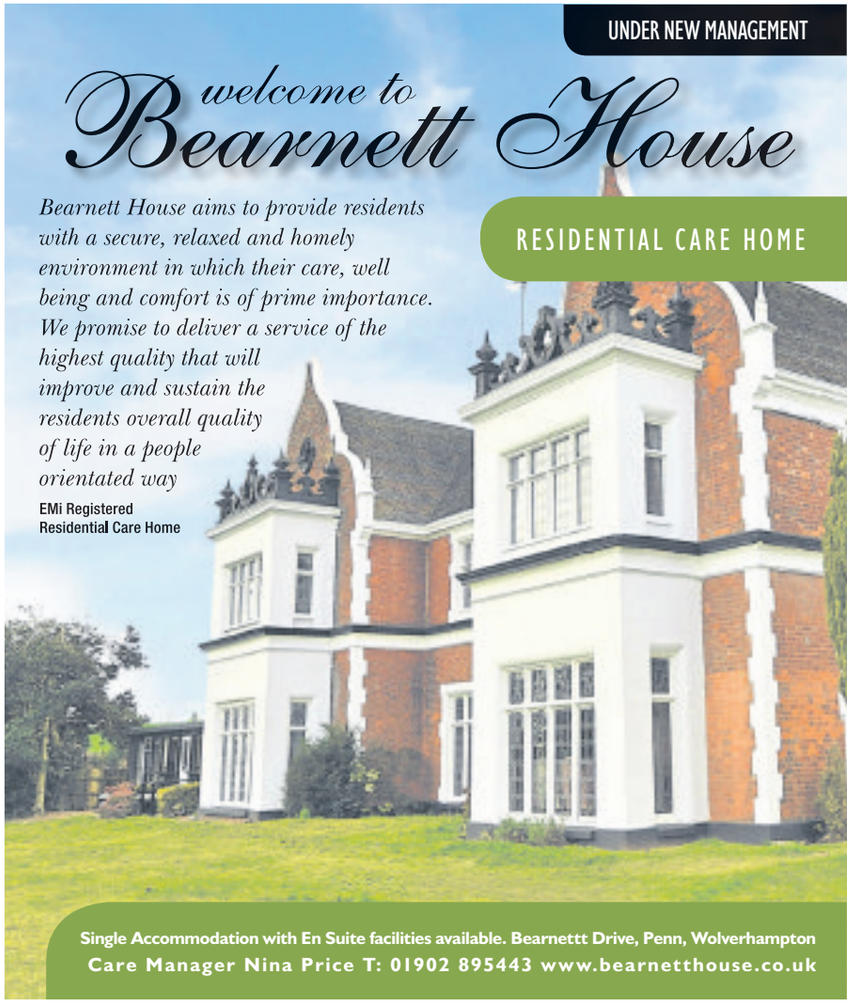
Sewer works closes road

SEWER works will continue to close a road in the city for another week.

Vehicles will be unable to drive across Brierley Lane in both directions at its junction with Batmans Hill Road and Wesley Street.

The Bilston street will be shut in both directions until Wednesday.

Drivers will instead have to use a diversion route.



Commercial Feature

Residential care where dignity counts

The imposing main staircase at Bearnett House

Bearnett House is a Grade II listed property in the Elizabethan style

Penn, was first converted to a residential care home in 1987.

At the time of the first edition of the Ordinance Survey in 1834 the site of what is currently Bearnett House was still a field.

Dr Topham, who was the South Staffordshire General Hospital and Wolverhampton Dispensary's - later to be renamed The Royal Hospital - first physician, built Puttley Villa on the site and was living there in 1860. But, it was George Ward, a Staffordshire ironmaster and a county JP, who had accumulated the family's wealth from the South Staffordshire iron trade going back to the Napoleonic wars, who built the house as we now know it.

In 1891 it required seven servants ranging in age from 16 to 62 years to run the house and meet the owners every need!

In 1924 after his death the estate then worth 58,862 passed to George Wards nephew, a commander in the Royal Navy who was not a Midlands man and who's interests lay elsewhere and so realised its assets and disposed of the house and grounds.

The new owner Fredrick Harold Reeves, a successful businessman owned Revo Electrical company in Tipton which at its height employed more than 2,500 workers on its 22 acre site with an annual turnover of one million pounds.

When Fredrick died in 1953 and the house and grounds once more went on the market the sales particulars would foretell the future use of the house when they stated that suitable uses for the house were ' a preparatory school, nursing or convalescent care home' Bought in 1954/ early 1955 by Mr Carding who ran Quality Motors at the bottom of

Worcester Street, Wolverhampton, eventually in the late eighties the house began a new chapter as a luxurious care and nursing home, a role it continues to perform today.

Most of the downstairs principle rooms have wooden panelling and a large oil painting of

Bearnett House, donated by the Reeves Family to the care home is now proudly displayed in the lounge, reminding residents and visitors alike of the splendours of the house and the role its previous owners have played in the Penn community and nearby conurbation.

In its latest reincarnation Bearnett House is a well established residential home for the elderly occupying a private secluded position adjacent to the A449, Wolverhampton to Stourbridge road.

Gardens

It is easily accessible by public transport and within five minutes walking distance of nearby shops.

Set in two acres of mature gardens with well-maintained lawns, attractive flower beds and diverse, colourful shrubberies, staff are delighted to hold various garden parties and royal occasions including a party currently being planned to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, taking place on June 10.

The house offers luxurious accommodation for long or short stay residents as well as offering day care facilities.

Bearnett House aims to provide residents with a secure, relaxed and homely environment

in which their care, well being and comfort are of prime importance.

Everything is done to make residents feel at home with all single en suite rooms being personalized by allowing residents to bring their personal belongings and items of furniture to create their own homely environment. All special dietary requirements are catered for and residents are given the option to have all meals served in their bedrooms on request, with the assurance of all food being prepared in the 5-star hygiene rated kitchen.

All carers have in-house mandatory training in care management, as well as registered nurses being employed to give the highest standard of care, preserving and maintaining residents dignity, individuality and privacy within a warm and caring atmosphere.

In doing so, they will be sensitive to the individual's ever-changing needs. A telephone line facilitates contact with relatives and friends and they may bring along small pets.

There is a sun lounge area to provide privacy for residents and visitors, with tea and coffee being provided as requested. There are also two communal lounges, and as Bearnett House is only registered for 29 residents with the Care Quality Commission, lounges are never overcrowded.

Freedom and personal care are recognised within the home and social activities are encouraged.

To find out more about how it delivers a service of the highest quality that will improve and sustain residents' overall quality of life, visit the website www.bearnetthouse.co.uk or telephone 01902 895443.

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Historic – Wolverhampton waterways by Mike Warville

Harry Parkes' photograph taken in Halesowen

Aaron Johal's pic outside Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

The Tipton Canal, by Mark Daniels, looks glorious at sunset

The entrance of Mary Stevens Park by Simon Beckett

Beauty of our home in focus

WHO would believe these stunning snaps were taken on a mobile phone?

Budding David Baileys have been capturing landmarks and scenes from Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge to Wolverhampton's waterways and Sandwell Council House.

Instameets uses the photograph sharing social network Instagram to allow keen amateurs with their mobile phones to enthusiasts and professionals to gather at a location to take pictures. Now a group has started in the Black Country.

And their rapidly expanding social media following is helping spread the word – and the pictures – to people far and wide.

Abi Garvey (@abigarveyphoto) Ed Brown (@notthetalkinghorse) and Steve Spencer (@stevie_spencer1973) established the IgersBlackCountry group on Instagram at the start of this year and it already has more than 700 followers. If you fancy having your work featured as the group's photo of the day, upload your images of the Black Country to Instagram using the hashtag #igers blackcountry

"A year on and several meets later we got chatting about having a day out, originally to go out looking for snow over Clee Hill in Shropshire, but we ended up staying local around Stourbridge," said Abi. "We had such a good fun day and got talking about doing more stuff together, sharing our love of all things photography. One thing lead to another and we decided we'd definitely meet up to do it all again and try and pull together other people from around the Black Country who share our passion for photography and love of the area."

The group picked the above images to show off the Black Country.

Steve said: "The images we've chosen here are a selection of those featured as our photo of the day.

"Who would have thought the canals could look so beautiful bathed in the setting sunlight or that a concrete multi-storey car park in Halesowen could be something you'd want to have on your wall?"

Instameets are also publicised on the group Instagram page's @ IGBlackCountry. Ed said: "To get involved – you can follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Every day around 6pm we feature a photograph taken within the Black Country area with the aim of showcasing our industrial history and beautiful scenery that can be found here."

Your chance to honour selfless and kind citizen

WOLVERHAMPTON Lions Club are looking to find their Citizen of the Year 2017.

The club wants to know about those people who work tirelessly and give their time to improve the lives of others, who give help and assistance to a charity, group, organisation, school or neighbourhood.

Or, they are seeking a person who gives their time, help and assistance to those less able and less fortunate, someone who has done a special or extraordinary fundraising event for a local charity or group, or someone who cares for or serves their local community.

The nominee must work or raise funds for local charities, groups or communities in the Wolverhampton area, including parts of South Staffordshire such as Wombourne, Coven, Brewood and Codsall.

The person should be over the age of 18 at the time of nomination. Details of the person, what they have done, or the work they do and why they have been nominated should be sent along with your name, address and contact phone number.

Send your nominations to citizenaward@ wolverhamptonlions.org.uk

The closing date is September11 but is subject to change. The award will be given at the Clubs Charter Dinner in October.

Student satisfaction slipping at university

OVERALL student satisfaction at the University of Wolverhampton has slipped compared to last year, according to the latest figures from the National Student Survey.

The annual survey asks students from all over the country how satisfied they are with their university, course, teaching, support, resources and students' union. This year the university scored an 82 per cent score, compared to 84 last year.

Dr Anthea Gregory, deputy vice-chancellor academic, said: "We are making investment in improving student experience."

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12,000 joining stem cell donors

MORE than 12,350 people registered as stem cell donors last year, according to a new report.

The annual review from Anthony Nolan and NHS Blood and Transplant, From Strength to Strength, reveals there are now 103,095 registered adults on the UK donor register from the West Midlands, an increase of 12 per cent from 2015, while a record number of new donors from BAME (black, Asian, minority ethnic) backgrounds joined the national register in 2016.

Henny Braund, chief executive of Anthony Nolan, said: "We will continue to work hard to recruit more minority ethnic and young male donors."

Third of trains in the region are either late – or cancelled

AROUND a third of all trains in the West Midlands are either late or cancelled. Birmingham New Street was one of the worst performing stations.

Figures show 54.5 per cent of trains failing to arrive on time. Codsall, which saw 42.7 per cent of trains cancelled or delayed, and Dudley Port, 42 per cent, were also among the worst performers. At Wolverhampton, 38.4 per cent of trains arrived late or were cancelled, at Stafford the figure was 32.9 per cent, and Sandwell and Dudley 36.9 per cent.

The figures were obtained from Network Rail's own running data, based on signal records, and are in stark contrast to the official figures released last month which said 89.8 per cent of trains nationally were "on time".

However, the official figures only measure trains at their last stop, and considers them "on time" if they are less than 10 minutes late for national services, and less than five minutes late for local services. The new figures, which relate to the period from July 21-27 record the performance at all stations, and considers them "delayed" if they are late by a minute or more.

Of the major stations in the West Midlands, Stourbridge junction was one of the best performing, with just 16.7 per cent of trains failing to arrive on time.

Million miles for police fleet

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE'S electric car fleet has clocked up nearly one million miles – enough to to drive around the world almost 40 times.

The original fleet of 30 Nissan Leafs, first leased in 2013, has now risen to 33 in an attempt to further reduce emissions and cut costs. The eco-friendly cars have saved the taxpayer around £55,000 over their diesel predecessors.

They've also produced 255 tonnes of CO_2 less than their diesel equivalents.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "I'm delighted these cars are doing their bit."

Can you help unfold origami mystery gripping university?

Mystery origami left at the University of Wolverhampton is exciting staff

A 'BANKSY'-STYLE artist has had people scratching their heads after leaving colourful origami scattered in public places.

The origami was first noticed by staff at Wolverhampton University, who saw the delicate paper sculptures throughout the campus.

The intricate artwork has been spotted in city subways and various locations near the university, prompting a search by members of staff and students to discover who is creating them. The origami – the art of paper folding which started in Japan – was first spotted two weeks ago.

Designs of a penguin and a vase of flowers were found in the building opposite the Molineux, before more were discovered on window sills and in lifts, before disappearing shortly afterwards.

The university decided to put out a story on the staff intranet asking anyone to come forward who might have seen any other samples and Mags Winthrop, communications manager at University of Wolverhampton, also tweeted an image.

The following day a special delivery box was found addressed on a window sill containing a note about the leaves in the subway and two other samples.

Ms Winthrop said: "It was packaged beautifully so the person who is doing this is obviously very creative and very skilled.

"It's a lovely idea to leave these little surprises around the campus, especially as the university starts to gear up for one of its busiest times of the year.

"We'd love to find out who's doing them, they're clearly very talented."

l Do you know who is behind the mystery? Email newsdesk@expressandstar.co.uk

Wheely good news for Diamond buses

ROTALA, the owner of Black Country-based Diamond Bus, saw pre-tax profits rise by 18.1 per cent to £1.34 million for its latest half year.

In the six months to the end of May revenue also rose by 4.5 per cent to £28.6m. Chairman John Gunn said the public transport group, based in Tividale, had continued to make good progress in the first half of 2017.

New contract wins announced during the half year are expected to produce additional estimated revenues of £4.7m in the full year. The level of revenue is 29 per cent higher than it was two years ago.

Rotala's purchase of Hansons from Wordsley was completed on July 28 and it is also looking to buy a freehold site and 18 buses from a business based in Greater Manchester.

Rotala was last month named the fastest growing company in the Sandwell Borough. The Hansons deal will see buses and operations move and the Lye depot will be sold.

Record fair is spinning

A RECORD fair is being held next weekend.

Everything from classic rock to soul and hip hop will be on sale at the fair in the Slade Rooms, Broad Street, Wolverhampton.

It is on Saturday. It will be open from 10.30am, with admission £3 for those who wish to attend.

Organisers said on their website: "Due to a major refurb at the Civic, we will be at the Slade rooms for most of 2017. This offers the largest selection ever assembled in the area."

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Society tickled pink at fuchsia show

THE best plants from a horticultural club were put on display as part of a competition held to showcase the talent of its members.

Grown by members of the Black Country Fuchsia Society, dozens of fuchsias were put on display at The Hub at Ashmore Park, Wolverhampton on August 5.

With a total of 37 categories to be won, trophies lined the side of the hall ready to be presented to the winners.

Organisers were particularly pleased that younger members had joined their ranks this year. Pat Rogers, aged 79, the chairman, said: "I think there is a fantastic amount on show. It has been a fantastic event for me because we have a young member who is 14."

The hall inside The Hub was filled with rows of fuchsias, with different shades of pink and red.

There were 37 titles up for grabs which graded fuchsias according to different specifications.

Judge Charles Jenkinson said: "This is one of the highest standard of shows about."

Fuchias are a small flowering plant, which consist of bright pink, red and purple flowers. They were discovered in the Caribbean around 1696 by a French monk.

The society, which has around 50 members, is on the lookout for new members.

It meets at the Corpus Christi Social Centre in Wednesfield on the last Tuesday of the month, except for December, from 7.30pm to 11pm.

Membership costs £3.50 per year.

To get in touch with the society call Pat on 01922 414749 or email perogers@talktalk.net

Cupcakes to mark 64th anniversary

Bilbrook WI

THE speaker for July was Julie Homfrey, who as formed her own company 'Cohesion' and spoke about her career in the arts.

Julie was a pleasant young lady with a very relaxed manner. She took members into the world of entertainment where she worked with many celebrities such as Katherine Jenkins and Alfie Boe.

She manages many events in this country and abroad and is the 'go to lady'. If she can't get you what you want she will know someone who can, mostly they come to Julie to sort out any problems such as sourcing a private jet to transport a celebrity to a venue.

Julie is also responsible for the layout of the programme for the Lighthouse every week. Many questions followed. Everyone agreed Julie was a lovely speaker, one to be recommended.

As this was the WI's 64th birthday there were delicious cupcakes provided by Gail, also to be recommended. A pleasant afternoon was rounded off with the usual raffle.

There is no meeting in August, the September meeting is the annual auction and is always good for a bit of light hearted banter.

Meetings are on the third Monday of the month in Holy Cross church hall, Bilbrook Road, Bilbrook, from 2-4pm. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £3.50 to include light refreshments. Call the president on 01902 843867.

Demolition Man talk brings house down

Wombourne & District Scientific & Historical Society

JOHN Woodward gave perhaps one of the best talks of the season in the July meeting. 'Demolition Man' was amusing, informative and entertaining – a high note to start the summer.

John explained the fundamentals of demolition, identifying the problems in the destruction of both steel and concrete buildings. Images of the demolition of the Red Road flats in Glasgow were included. He recounted the earliest recorded account of demolition as that of the destruction of the city walls in Jericho, from the Old Testament.

A time-delayed video of the removal of a bridge at the new Catthorpe junction (M1 and M14) was amazing to watch. Other images showed how oil rigs are demolished. Throughout his talk, he emphasised the health and safety aspects of his work. This calls for extremely detailed logistics, which for a large project can take many months. His main thought is always 'what if.....'

Finally, he is challenged about how much material can be recycled. More than 90 per cent of the debris can be reused. His main concern is that future contractors have access to accurate and clear plans of all structures, and that such documents also have detailed instruction as to how to safely dismember. Asbestos removal from old tower blocks requires extreme care and careful preparation before the day.

The next meeting is tonight (Thursday), with A Canalside Wander by Paul Wilkinson to see bats and more. Further information on 07812 447648.

On September 21 in the community centre at 7.30pm, Dr Simon Keeling gives a talk on Clouds – A Sky Canvas.

Chance to test growing and baking skills

Wolverhampton Gardening Association

SANDY Lane Allotments & Gardeners Association are preparing for two forthcoming events.

The first on September 2 will be its ever popular annual Flower & Vegetable Show, a fun competition for all gardeners to try to get recognition for all their hard work during the year, with free entry fun section for the under-14s.

This is followed on September 30 by a cookery competition, a chance to show off baking skills. This event will be judged by Ms V Hunt of North West academy.

Register your interest as soon as possible for this unusual event.

If you would like more information about these events, please contact Michael Nickholds on 07983 882119 or email at mikenickholds@yahoo.co.uk

Strawberry supper enjoyed

Penn TG

JULY'S guild meeting was a strawberry supper with music by the Crag Band, who played a variety of instruments and sang many various songs.

Members from Wombourne, Codsall and Perton guilds were also invited. Everyone enjoyed the music.

It was also nice to meet the ladies from other guilds. Ursula McInnes thanked members for their help in preparing the strawberries and also donating raffle prizes.

Social Studies had a craft evening organised by two guild members.

There are no meetings in August but the Gardening Group are going to Evesham.

Have a say on Black Country's future

Commercial feature

People from across the Black Country are being encouraged to have their say on a review of the Black Country Core Strategy.

Views are needed on how Black Country authorities can best meet housing, economic development and transport needs, as well as protecting the local environment to help shape the future of the area.

Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton councils are all working together to achieve the very best future for local communities through the strategy which is a key planning and regeneration tool for the whole of the Black Country.

Investment

It plans for the area's future local development needs and directs services to the right locations to meet local needs. It also makes sure the necessary level of investment is attracted to create jobs and wealth in our region.

The current strategy was adopted by the four councils in 2011.

It has shaped the housing, industrial and retail growth of the area, whilst protecting the environment and greenbelt. It has also been successful in supporting regeneration for the past six years.

The strategy now needs to be reviewed to meet the new challenges and opportunities for the coming years, up to 2036.

A public consultation will make sure that everyone across the Black Country has the opportunity to have their say on the plans for the area.

The new core strategy will provide the framework for growth and development across the Black Country up to 2036.

It is really important that people who live and work in the area help shape it, so it reflects the aspirations of local people.

There are ten key issues that people's views are being sought on: meeting housing needs, supporting the economy, supporting town centres, protecting the environment, reviewing the green belt, keeping the Black Country connected, providing community facilities to support growth, people's health and wellbeing, working with our neighbours and regeneration across the Black Country.

Around 78,000 new homes need to be built in the Black Country over the next 20 years. There are enough brownfield sites to deliver around 56,000 homes, but new plots of land need to be found for an extra 22,000 homes as the population and economy of the area continues to grow.

There is also a need to find new employment land to expand the economy and create jobs. We need to decide where this development should go.

Making the most of brownfield land remains the top priority, however, in the coming decades sites like this are going to run out and the green belt will need to be reviewed to find more development sites to meet future needs.

Decisions also need to be made about the infrastructure required to support new development, including transport, schools and shops.

The consultation is open until September 8 2017. It's easy to take part by visiting blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk where all the documents are available to read and people can fill in a questionnaire online.

A leaflet, which includes a prepaid questionnaire, is also available at local libraries. Please email blackcountrycorestrategy@dudley.gov.uk or call 01384 814136 for more details.

Consultation events will be running across the Black Country throughout the consultation period, dates and venues for these are detailed below.

As part of the consultation, there is also a "Call for Sites" where people can put forward areas of land they feel may be suitable for development.

When the consultation closes all feedback will be collated, considered and used to help develop the next stage of the strategy – which will identify key locations for future development.

The views of local people will help plan for the very best future for the Black Country.

Views are being sought on how best to protect the environment as the strategy is reviewed

The strategy will also look at retail growth, employment and the economy

The Black Country needs your voice

Have your say!

Give us your views on housing, employment, transport and the local environment to help the area move forward.

The Black Country Core Strategy is a regeneration plan which sets out the future development of the area.

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Consultation closes September 8 2017

Black Country | Core Strategy
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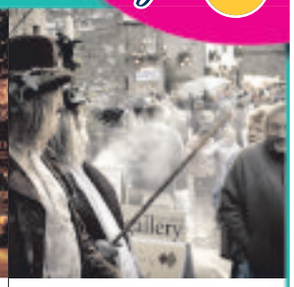

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Proud zoo boss thanks those who backed him

IT used to be an overgrown patch of land with old garden furniture strewn around.

But one year on, the land has been revamped and is now home to a thriving zoo which has attracted thousands of visitors.

And there is a bright future ahead for WILD Zoological Park in Bobbington, with bosses saying they have further plans to expand.

The zoo is the brainchild of Zac Hollinshead, who grew up on a farm outside Wolverhampton.

Zoo director Zac graduated from a degree course in zoology at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences at Aberystwyth University in 2013 and opened WILD last August. He has spoken of his pride at the zoo's success – but promised more is to come.

When it was an overgrown patch of land

Zac giving a shoulder ride to Baloo

The land has been revamped and is now home to a thriving zoo

Dream

Zac said: "A year ago I opened my dream to the public, my own zoo. [On] our one-year anniversary I'm happy to say we are going so strong and still expanding.

"We often operate at capacity, we have incredible public feedback and we've provided homes for a lot of animals that have either been rescued from appalling conditions or form part of vitally important endangered species conservation programmes.

"I'm so proud of it and all the work and design, effort and love that has gone into it. I'm proud of my team and everybody who has made WILD a reality and great success.

"I was told time and time again I'd never do it. 'You can't do this, you can't do that, you'll never make it, that won't work, get a proper job, get back to reality'. If you've got a dream then don't sit around, go for it. I was bullied severely through my school life, sometimes physically, for multiple reasons and those that know me can probably guess.

"When we first took over the site from the previous occupiers it was clear there was a lot of work to be done. But now it's a place I'm proud to call home. I'm surrounded by amazing people and amazing animals and I can't thank you all enough for being a part of it, whether you're a volunteer, a member of my staff or even coming to support us as a visitor.

"You're all amazing and I can't wait to reveal our new 2018 plans," Mr Hollinshead added.

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Aviation fans invited to climb into cockpits

A CLOSE-UP view of a Wolverhampton-built Second World War fighter aircraft will be one of the highlights of a special evening next month.

Hundreds of aviation fans are expected to converge on the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford to see the recently-arrived Battle of Britain fighter plane, Boulton Paul Defiant Mk1, at a two-day 'open cockpits' event on 15-16 September.

The aircraft joined the display at Cosford just a few months ago and is the last surviving example of its kind, built by Boulton Paul at its factory in Pendeford in 1938.

The two-seat turret fighter operated with mixed fortunes during the Battle of Britain period but found its niche as a night fighter during 1940-42.

Ticket holders will also have after-hours access to the museum from 6-9pm to experience what it feels like to sit inside a military aircraft that has seen action around the world. A total of 15 aircraft will be available on the night. A team of volunteers will be on hand to answer questions.

The event is limited to 300 tickets per evening. Tickets are available through the museum's website www.rafmuseum.org/cosford and cost £12.50 which includes parking.

Hop to it – fun time at national play day

Joining in the fun on the space hoppers

CHILDREN and their families flocked to a national day of play at an historic house and gardens.

Bantock House museum and park, on Finchfield Road, opened its doors to the youngsters for the special day aimed at recognising the importance of play.

The free event saw dozens of children under the age of 11 get involved in a raft of activities, from blowing bubbles to making dens, painting totem poles, bouncing on space hoppers and playing racket sports.

'Playday' as it is known, is the national day for play in the UK, traditionally held on the first Wednesday in August.

As well as a celebration of children's right to play, Playday is a campaign that highlights the importance of play in children's lives.

Building better life for wheelchair users

A HOUSEBUILDING company has given a cash boost to a charity that helps wheelchair users enjoy the outdoors.

Persimmon Homes West Midlands, based in Wolverhampton, donated £1,000 to Freedom Wizard through its Community Champions scheme.

Freedom Wizard, based in Eccleshall, was formed to enable wheelchair users and those of limited mobility access to rugged Britain. Its central position allowing access to the Shropshire hills, Staffordshire Moors, surrounding forests and easy access to the mountains of Snowdonia, the Lake District and beyond.

Allie Pennington, spokeswoman for the group, said: "We bring our fleet of all terrain wheelchairs to regular experience days in forests, moorlands and fells throughout the UK."

The charity, in its first year, has so far helped more than 60 people.

Knife crime is not all gangs – police chief tells parents

PARENTS have been urged to talk to their children about the dangers of carrying knifes following a series of fatal stabbings in the region.

West Midlands Chief Constable Dave Thompson said he had been 'troubled' by the number of perpetrators coming from 'decent family homes' in recent weeks.

He said: "My message to parents is don't think this is all about gangs. What we are seeing is more and more young people involved in knife crime who have no previous background of criminal behaviour.

"That is why I am asking parents to have a conversation with their sons and daughters about the dangers and consequences of carrying knives."

The number of young people being stopped and searched by officers is expected to rise following the recent spikes in knife and gun crimes.

Mr Thompson added: "Knife crime obviously has a heart-breaking effect on the victim and their families but it also changes the life for the offender and their families.

"We don't want to see any families have their lives changed beyond all belief."

200 caught drink or drug driving

POLICE caught more than 200 motorists drink or drug driving during an annual summer crackdown.

The month-long operation saw officers target motorists suspected of breaking the law and putting themselves and others at risk.

Officers from West Midlands Police and the Central Motorway Police Group operated roadside checkpoints and patrolled in unmarked vehicles during the national campaign throughout June.

Overall, there were 198 motorists who were either over the drink-drive limit or failed to give a sample – with 25 positive for drugs.

This included one motorist who recorded 152 micrograms in 100 ml of breath. The legal limit is 35 mcg.

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Play your part in awards, says top fundraiser Louis

Louis Johnson was so thrilled get his Young Star of the Year award last year and wants others to join in this year

LOUIS Johnson has urged readers to play their part in the Great Big Thank You Awards.

The 10-year-old proved to be a star of the show at the first awards – and says it has helped to boost his fundraising efforts.

He was named Young Star of the Year and so far he has been going from strength to strength. The youngster said: "I was really shocked that I got it because all the other children that were nominated looked good. I have a lot of fun raising money."

Louis' mother Teresa, said people have supported him now more than ever since he was the Young Star winner at the Great Big Thank You Awards.

The pupil from Christ Church Junior School, Tettenhall Wood, raised more than £7,000 for good causes including Cure Leukaemia – a charity backed by Wolves keeper Carl Ikeme after he was diagnosed with the disease – through bake sales and raffles.

Tim is running out to get nominations in. There are eight awards up for grabs at our sister daily the Express & Star's Great Big Thank You Awards. Others include Ambassador of the Year, Community Champions, Fresh Start Award, Fundraiser of the Year, Learner Award, Teacher of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. Nominations close at midday on Monday (21). Visit www.starthankyou.expressandstar.co.uk

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Raise Your Glass as Pink heads to V

The big decision for headliner Pink won't be what to include in her main stage set at V. It'll be what to leave out.

The seller of around 50 million albums and winner of three Grammys, one Brit, a Daytime Emmy and six MTV Video Music Awards has been working on her upcoming seventh album, Beautiful Trauma, which is out in October.

And when it comes to choosing her set list, she'll have to choose from six albums and 35 singles.

The hit-maker has scored some of the most important singles of the 2000s, including Get The Party Started, Who Knew, So What, Raise Your Glass, Perfect, Try, Just Give Me A Reason and Just Like Fire.

She has become increasingly successful throughout her career and her most recent studio album, The Truth About Love, was a number one in the USA, Canada, across Europe and in New Zealand.

It was released five years ago and looked at love, relationships, feminism, sexual prowess and social exclusion. She collaborated with Eminem, Lily Allen and Nate Ruess, from American band Fun.

A huge world tour followed, taking Pink through America, Australia and Europe.

She has since had a second child, a son, Jameson, to go with her daughter, Willow, and enjoyed time at home with her husband, Carey Hart, the professional motocross racer. The singer, described as the most trailblazing artist of her generation, lists Madonna and Janis Joplin as her two biggest heroes and she in turn has inspired Katy Perry, Kesha and Rihanna.

She has also acquired a new hobby, cultivating an organic vineyard in southern California after visiting leading wineries around the world. She describes her passion for wine as her 'dirty little secret' and says she started by taking online courses.

After that, she learned about pruning vines by taking her Beck album, listening to it through earphones and spending days pruning. Pink says she loved the ability to work for eight hours with nature and pruning quickly became her favourite thing.

She developed her 25-acre estate, which includes Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec, Grenache and Grenache Blanc. Her love of wine, however, has been a long-term thing. When she burst onto the scene at the end of the 1990s, her rider would include a bottle of Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

She told Decanter magazine: "When I made my [first] rider, I was 20 and I just put Châteauneuf-du-Pape on there because that was the wine that made me love wine."

Since then, when she's been travelling the world, she's visited some of the best wineries that there are. She admits she doesn't know too much about English wine – but is hoping to try a little after she headlines V.

Earlier this year, Pink teamed up with Sia to release a new song, Waterfall. They worked with Norwegian songwriters Stargate on the track. Stargate have previously written hits for Beyonce, Rihanna and Fifth Harmony.

Time to think Pink as the US superstar headlines one of the top festivals

Pink works hard to stay out of the Hollywood bubble and she has been a formidable campaigner for women's rights. On social media and in interviews, she has lashed out at body shamers and lambasted those who are judgemental about women's figures.

At the BMI Pop Awards, she said: "I don't take well to bullying. I never have. I'm not a person that will be bullied. I'm not a person that will stand by watching other people bullied.

"I am a girl, I have feelings and people think I take no sh*t and I'm tough, tougher than nails, but I'm a human being.

"I think people have gotten it wrong. They think their opinion matters and holds weight and I don't know where or why they're giving themselves so much credit, you know?

"So I thought it was important for me to remind them that I don't care. My life is full, I like food a lot and I really like to cook, I like to live, I find joy in that and were doing alright in the Hart household."

Pink has been lauded by critics for being that rarest of creatures – a true artist.

While other stars have been criticised for oversinging, being unable to sing or being vocal lightweights, Pink has maintained a brilliant career by being an authentic, powerhouse vocalist. One of the singers on whom she had the greatest impact was Adele, who saw her as a teenager on the Missundaztood tour, at Brixton Academy. Adele rated it as one of the defining moments of her life and said: "I had never heard, being in the room, someone sing like that live. I remember sort of feeling like I was in a wind tunnel, her voice just hitting me. It was incredible."

> *People think I take no sh*t and I'm tough, but I'm a human being*

SUPERBOWL

Adele isn't the only one to credit Pink's work as being inspirational – she's also loved by Demi Lovato, Kelly Clarkson, Taylor Swift and more.

Pink has also rushed to the defence of other female stars, including Lady Gaga who was criticised for copying her Superbowl performance by 'flying' through the air.

She took to Instagram using the hashtag #womensupportingwomen to support Lady Gaga and wrote: "Her voice was powerful and beautiful, her outfits were on point, choreography stellar, her heart was in it and she sang about love and inclusiveness, all in front of millions and millions of people."

Pink will be doing something similar this weekend – her fans can't wait.

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

The animals - a not-so-subtle clue to the title of the band's biggest hit The Size of a Cow

Booking in to relive those Wonder years

SOLD out football stadia and number one hits – for a while, The Wonder Stuff became the region's biggest musical export since Slade and Led Zeppelin.

Led by the tousle-haired Miles Hunt, The Eight Legged Groove Machine became Top of the Pops habitués as they escaped their native Stourbridge and took on the world. Hunt, who for 22 years has lived in the Shropshire Hills, wrote instantly accessible songs that resonated with indie kids around the UK.

And though their first two albums were successful – The Eight Legged Groove Machine went to number 18 on the chart while Hup went to number five – it was their latter years, from 1990 to 1994, that brought them their greatest commercial success.

Their third album, Never Loved Elvis, was a number three hit and spawned the top five single Size Of A Cow while the successor, Construction For The Modern Idiot, also hit number four on the chart in 1993.

Successful albums weren't the only way of calibrating their success. The Wonder Stuff also filled Walsall's Bescot Stadium, packing 18,000 'Stuffies' into their local football club.

When they'd finally had enough, they did so in style. As they headlined a sold out Phoenix Festival with actress Anna Friel looking on, there were echoes of a lyric from the song Here Comes Everyone, which featured on Never Loved Elvis.

While The Wonder Stuff's 1990-1994 era coincided with their most successful age, it was also Hunt's unhappiest in the band. "I didn't enjoy any of it," he says.

Two years ago, Hunt chronicled The Wonder Stuff's early years in his book The Wonder Stuff Diaries '86-'89. In August, Hunt will publish the two compendium volumes, the first covering the years '90-'91 and the second covering the band's exit, '92-'94.

In '90-'91, Hunt picks up where he left off. Having lost an original member, Rob 'The Bass Thing' Jones, at the end of 1989 Hunt recalls the subsequent months pondering how the band might recover from such a blow.

Hunt says: "If my first book of diaries represented the ascent of The Wonder Stuff then this book represents the levelling out, the getting used to how things are going to be from here on in."

The latter book marks an era in which the band were enormously successful – but remarkably dysfunctional and unhappy. Hunt doesn't hide his disaffection with the band.

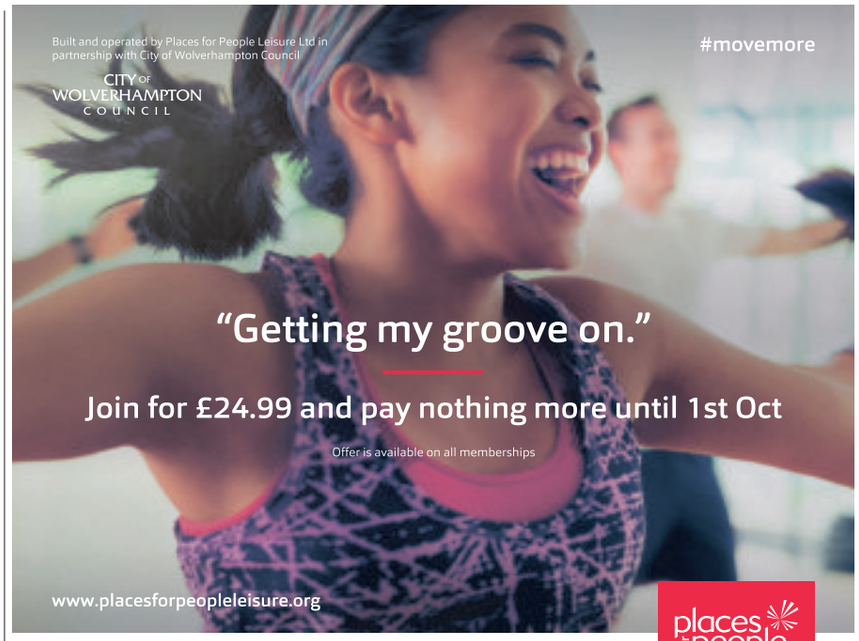
He says: "No matter how many records an artist sells it will never sate the hunger of the business end of the music business. It's a dreary environment for a creative person to find him or herself in and it would've took a much smarter person than I was back in the early 1990's to have got the balance right."

Hunt's life between 1990 and 1994 was utterly extraordinary. Having grown up and been inspired by his uncle, Bill, who was the keyboard player in ELO and Wizzard, he moved to Stourbridge at the age of 18 or 19 and hung out with mates who later formed Pop Will Eat Itself. The rest, as his diaries attest, is history. The diaries, collectively, chart The Wonder Stuff's remarkable rise.

ANDY RICHARDSON

The Wonder Stuff filled Walsall's Bescot Stadium

Miles Hunt at the Literary Festival in Wolverhampton



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Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, August 17, 2017

SATURDAY'S TV AUGUST 19

CHOICE

Len Goodman

Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme
(Channel 4, 9pm)
New series. The former Strictly Come Dancing judge hosts a lyrical game show, in which two would-be poets battle it out through three rhyme-based challenges in a bid to claim a place in the final round, where they could win a holiday. Each competitor receives help from two celebrity assistants, who are on hand to back-up their assigned contestant in a variety of themed tasks.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's British Food Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.15 Film:** Toy Story. (1995) Pixar animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.
6.30 BBC News.
6.40 Regional Programme.
6.45 Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme. New series. The former Strictly Come Dancing judge hosts a lyrical game show, in two teams of celebrities help a pair of would-be poets battle through four rhyme-based challenges.
7.20 Pointless Celebrities. David Coulthard, Mark Webber, Allan McNish, Claire Williams, Murray Walker, Nigel Mansell, Christian Horner and Suzi Perry take part in a Formula One-themed edition of the quiz. (R)
8.05 Who Dares Wins.
8.45 Casualty. Medics from Holby head for France to offer their expertise to migrants stranded at a refugee camp. There, Alicia takes a shine to British medic Cameron Hamilton, who has been on the scene for a while, helping the camp's women and children. Meanwhile, Dylan finds himself becoming emotionally involved in the plight of two Sudanese orphans, who have fallen prey to ruthless people-traffickers, and back at the hospital, Connie is shocked to learn Sam has resigned and seems to have disappeared – taking Grace with him.
9.35 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes ends up at the wrong venue after trying to gatecrash Maria's hen party. She then tries to impress the bride-to-be's mother during a dinner date, but the evening ends in chaos. (R)
10.05 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.
10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights from the latest Premier League.
11.50 People Just Do Nothing. New series. The spoof documentary going behind the scenes at pirate radio station Kurupt FM returns, as a rival station emerges, and Grindah spirals out of control.
12.20 Film: Tron: Legacy. (2010) **2.15** Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.00 Coast. (R) **7.00 Film:** Return of the Bad Men. (1948) **8.30 Film:** Great Day in the Morning. (1956) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.00** Ulster Derby Highlights. **12.00** Nigel and Adam's Farm Kitchen. (R) **1.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.45 Film:** Forbidden Planet. (1956) Sci-fi drama, starring Walter Pidgeon. **3.20** Mastermind. (R) **3.50** University Challenge. (R) **4.20** Only Connect. (R) **4.50** Gardeners' World. (R) **5.50** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R)
6.50 Proms Extra. Baritone singer Roderick Williams and composer Hannah Kendall join host Katie Derham in the studio. Tonight, she revisits Rachmaninov's Symphony No 2 in E minor, which the Scottish Symphony Orchestra performed as part of Prom 37 last Sunday, and the Aurora Orchestra's rendition of Beethoven's Eroica from Prom 10. Also featured is Prom 41's Passages, by Ravi Shankar and Philip Glass, performed by the Britten Sinfonia and Karen Kamensek alongside Shankar's daughter, the sitar virtuoso Anoushka Shankar.
7.30 Welcome to Edinburgh.
8.00 Iolo's Great Welsh Parks. Iolo Williams explores Margam Country Park on the outskirts of Port Talbot, which feature lakes and mature woodland with three species of deer and 11 species of bats.
8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring devises a cunning new way of foiling Hitler's invasion plans – but it results in Pike getting trapped in the middle of a minefield. (R)
9.00 Film: The Lady in the Van. (2015) The true story of writer Alan Bennett's friendship with an eccentric homeless woman, whom he befriended in the 1970s before allowing her to park her dilapidated Bedford van outside his Camden home, where she ended up staying for 15 years. Comedy-drama, starring Maggie Smith.
10.40 Being Alan Bennett. Cameras follow the author during key moments of his 75th year, revealing the apparent contradictions in his personality as he performs civic functions and prepares his new play. (R)
11.40 Film: The History Boys. (2006) Comedy drama, with Richard Griffiths.
1.30 Film: Henry V. (1989)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.25** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.20** Gok's Lunchbox. (R) **11.15** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Chase. (R) **1.25** Joanna Lumley's Postcards. (R) **1.55** Tipping Point. (R) **3.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** Little Big Shots USA.
6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.05 ITV News; Weather.
6.20 You've Been Framed! Bounces Back! Harry Hill narrates another 60-minute special edition of the comical clip show, applying his unique brand of silly, satirical commentary to a selection of hilarious hi-jinks captured on video by viewers at home. (R)
7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000. Last in the series.
8.00 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man. (2012) A gifted teenager investigates the secrets hidden in his dead parents' past, leading him to a mysterious corporation and an incident that imbues him with superhuman powers. A personal tragedy drives him to use his new-found abilities to fight crime, and he is soon drawn into a deadly battle against a former colleague of his father, who has undergone a devastating transformation of his own. Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Rhys Ifans.
10.35 ITV News; Weather.
10.50 Film: The World Is Not Enough. (1999) James Bond is assigned to protect an oil heiress from an infamous terrorist planning to destroy a pipeline. Spy adventure, with Pierce Brosnan, Robert Carlyle and Sophie Marceau.
1.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **6.45** Triathlon: Long Course Weekend. **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **12.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** Big House, Little House. **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Britain at Low Tide. Last in the series. (R)
8.00 Child Genius: The Final. Richard Osman hosts the final stage of the week-long contest, once again serving as quizmaster as five of Britain's brightest young minds battle it out to enter the final round, and secure a chance at the title. The first part of the final sees the contestants demonstrating their mastery of a degree-level specialist subject of their choice. The subjects are Edward Jenner: Medical Innovation and Methodology in the late 18th Century, Pre-Socratic Philosophy, Military Campaigns of the Yellow Turban Rebellion – 184-205CE, Martin Luther King Jr, and London in 1666: Society, Politics and the Urban Environment in the Year of the Great Fire. Only the two highest scoring competitors from the specialist round will make it through to the last, head-to-head buzzer contest, which will result in one youngster claiming the title of Child Genius 2017. Last in the series.
9.00 Film: The Hunger Games: Catching Fire. (2013) Sci-fi adventure sequel based on the second book in Suzanne Collins' trilogy of novels, starring Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth and Donald Sutherland.
11.50 Film: X-Men. (2000) Mutant outsiders with strange powers fight to defend mankind from a superhuman terrorist faction. Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Hugh Jackman.
1.35 The Windsors. (R) **2.05** Hollyoaks. **4.10** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.05** Sarah Beeny's Double Your House for Half the Money. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50 Film:** Igor. (2008) **12.25** Disobedient Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.20** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **2.20** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **3.15** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.15** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **5.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)
6.05 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. A Devon woman spends a night in the cells after a dispute with a neighbour who happens to be a policeman, while a York man gets an unexpected soaking after an argument. (R)
7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul Bohill and Phil Short must deal with a negligent tenant who fled upon their arrival, forcing the agents to set a trap in order to evict him. Meanwhile, Brian O'Shaughnessy and Kevin Stokes chase a debt of £5,000 in Kent, before heading to Surrey to recover £11,000 owed by the owner a bespoke furniture business. Plus, Paul and Steve Pinner's patience is tested to the limit when they are sent to carry out an eviction in London. (R)
8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Stewart and Elmore face the most challenging eviction of their careers, while Brian and Del chase £2,000 worth of debt owed by a business based in Kent. (R)
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Highlights from the latest games in the Championship, which included Sheffield United v Barnsley, Aston Villa v Norwich City, and Sunderland v Leeds United.
10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, which included Bradford City v Blackburn Rovers, and Forest Green Rovers v Yeovil Town.
10.30 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights from Friday, including the contestants' reactions to the eviction, plus more games, gossip and diary room confessions.
11.30 Lip Sync Battle UK: Rufus Hound v Jorgie Porter. (R)
12.00 Cricket on 5. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Gotham. (R) **4.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.45** Access. **4.55** Great Scientists. (R) **5.25** Nick's Quest. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.55** Bob Monkhouse: The Last Stand **12.00** The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse **1.25** David Bowie and the Story of Ziggy Stardust **2.30** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.40 Catchphrase **12.25** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **12.55** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.20** You've Been Framed! Goes Wild! **2.25 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **3.25** FYI Daily **3.30 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **4.15 Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20 Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **6.10 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **8.00 Film:** Crazy, Stupid, Love (2011) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Crazy, Stupid, Love (2011) **10.20** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.20** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **2.10** Viral Tap **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
1.00 The Darling Buds of May **2.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.05 Film:** Carry On Camping (1969) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** Carry On Camping (1969) **5.55** Wycliffe **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **1.55** Rising Damp

ITV4
11.00 Cash Cowboys **1.00** Storage Wars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newbury, Newmarket and Ripon. Oli Bell and Francesca Cumani present coverage of today's meetings. **4.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **5.30** Storage Wars **6.00** World Series of Darts: Melbourne **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.05 Film:** Blade (1998) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** Blade (1998)

E4
12.15 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **12.30** The Goldbergs **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** Don't Tell the Bride **6.30 Film:** Beautiful Creatures (2013) **9.00 Film:** I Give It a Year (2013) **11.00** Gogglebox **1.05** Rude Tube: All Things Weird and Wonderful **2.15** Tattoo Fixers

Film4
11.00 Sunshine on Leith (2013) **1.00** Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **2.50** Epic (2013) **4.55** Carry On Teacher (1959) **6.40** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) **8.55** Patti Cake$ Interview Special **9.00** I, Frankenstein (2014) **10.45** Attack the Block (2011) **12.30** The Windmill Massacre (2016)

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SUNDAY'S TV AUGUST 20

CHOICE

Sam Otto

The State (Channel 4, 9pm)
New series. Drama following the experiences of four British men and women who left their lives behind to join Isis in 2015. A man hoping to follow in his brother's footsteps has persuaded his best friend to join him, while a single mother hopes to provide medical aid and a teenager embraces the radical doctrines she has encountered online. The recruits cross into Syria under cover of darkness, where the men begin combat training and the women are introduced to the society's strict rules. Continues tomorrow.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.15** Songs of Praise. **2.50** Athletics: Birmingham Grand Prix. Live coverage of the ninth round of the Diamond League season. **5.10** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.40** BBC News. **5.55** Regional Programme.

6.05 Countryfile. Summer special from the Blenheim Estate in Oxfordshire. Ellie Harrison meets an aspiring actress-turned-accidental cow artist, John Craven uncovers one of the house's greatest secrets, Adam Henson brings the farmyard to the showground, and Tom Heap discovers how the estate's forests help the local community.

7.05 Fake or Fortune? New series. Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate a landscape that may be a lost painting by Constable, and an alternate view of his masterpiece The Hay Wain. The painting is currently owned by a Gloucestershire businessman and seems to have all the hallmarks of Constable's early sketches, as well as clear signs that it depicts the same location as The Hay Wain – but was dismissed as another artist's work 30 years previously. The case proves particularly personal for Philip, who is one of the artwork's previous owners.

8.05 Film: Far from the Madding Crowd. (2015) Premiere. A headstrong Victorian woman inherits a sheep farm in a remote area of Dorset. She struggles to maintain her independence while being courted by three very different men – a stoic farmer, a dashing, reckless soldier and a lonely older man. Period drama based on Thomas Hardy's novel, starring Carey Mulligan, Matthias Schoenaerts, Tom Sturridge and Michael Sheen.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action.

11.30 Film: Dream House. (2011) Horror, starring Daniel Craig, Naomi Watts and Rachel Weisz.

12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.00** Garden Rescue. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Countryfile. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** The Hairy Bikers' Pubs That Built Britain. (R) **1.30** Athletics: Birmingham Grand Prix. Live coverage of the ninth round of the Diamond League season. **2.50** Flog It! (R) **3.45** Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney. (R) **4.45** Equestrian.

6.50 Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan travels to remote regions on three continents to learn how tribal cultures hunt and live alongside dangerous animals, beginning his journey in Ecuador, where he meets a family from the Waorani tribe. They venture into the Amazon Jungle, where the Waorani hunt monkeys and wild pigs using blowpipes and sharpened sticks, and try to trap an anaconda, an animal of great spiritual significance. (R)

7.50 Meet the New Dragons. An introduction to Dragons' Den's new panellists, Tej Lalvani, CEO of vitamins company Vitabiotics, and Jenny Campbell, founder of ATM provider YourCash Europe Ltd.

8.00 Dragons' Den. New series. Evan Davis hosts the business ideas challenge, which sees vitamin company CEO Tej Lalvani and cash machine tycoon Jenny Campbell joining returning Dragons Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones and Touker Suleyman to cast an eye over more money-making schemes – with the largest investments in the show's history up for grabs. The first batch of entrepreneurs braving the den present their ideas for an allergy-friendly food range, astroturf for schools and youth centres, and a voucher code website that could revolutionise online shopping.

9.00 Astronauts: Do You Have What it Takes? New series. A group of 12 people compete against each other through six weeks of astronaut training, with the winner receiving support in pursuing a career with a space agency.

10.00 Ill Behaviour. New series. Starring Chris Geere.

11.00 Film: The Hunter. (2011) Drama, starring Willem Dafoe.

12.35 Film: Tommy. (1975) **2.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Ninjago: Rebooted. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.20** Long Lost Family. (R) **11.20** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **1.00** Rebound. (R) **1.55** Tipping Point. (R) **2.55** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **3.25 Film:** Licence to Kill. (1989) James Bond spy thriller, starring Timothy Dalton.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.10 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Jay Rayner, Lucy Porter, Krishnan Guru-Murthy and Steve Davis pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

7.30 Film: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2. (2011) The young wizard continues his search for the artefacts containing fragments of the dark lord Voldemort's soul. Time is running out, as the evil sorcerer is aware of Harry's mission, and marshals his forces for a final, devastating attack on Harry and his friends at Hogwarts school. Conclusion of the fantasy saga, with Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson and Alan Rickman.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories. Barrister Robert Rinder examines the case of murderer Kenneth Noye, who was the target of an international manhunt after stabbing a man to death on the M25. (R)

11.15 Take Me Out. (R)

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Last Man Standing. **6.25** Last Man Standing. **6.50** Last Man Standing. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35** Toy Story Toons. (R) **4.05 Film:** Toy Story That Time Forgot. (2014) Short animated comedy, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. **4.30 Film:** Tangled. (2010) Disney animated comedy, with the voice of Mandy Moore.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. New series. George Clarke presides over the 2017 Shed of the Year competition, beginning with the cabins and summerhouses category. Among the contenders are a mushroom-shaped shed and a pink and turquoise construction inspired by a Los Angeles pool house. This year's contest will feature a new category, for unusual sheds that push the boundaries of construction in ingenious ways.

8.00 From Russia to Iran: Crossing the Wild Frontier. New series. Levison Wood travels across the Caucasus mountain range, which run for 2600 miles across five countries on the border between Europe and Asia. The expedition begins on Russia's heavily militarised southern border, where he has to avoid the local police. The first leg of the journey takes him through the ruins of ancient civilisations, the notorious former battleground of Chechnya, and the territory of Islamist terrorists.

9.00 The State. New series. Drama following the experiences of four British men and women who left their lives behind to join Isis in 2015. The recruits cross into Syria under cover of darkness. Continues tomorrow.

10.00 Film: The Gunman. (2015) After spending years in hiding, a mercenary becomes the latest target of his former colleagues. Crime drama, starring Sean Penn and Idris Elba.

12.10 Film: Belle. (2013) **2.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.50** Gillette World Sport. **3.20** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.45** Sarah Beeny's Double Your House for Half the Money. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wissper. (R) **7.05** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.20** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Floogals. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors: Dog Squad Special. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits. (R) **3.00** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits 2. (R) **3.55** Police Interceptors: Drugs Bust. (R) **4.55** 5 News Weekend. **5.00** Biggest Dog in the World. (R)

6.00 The Secret Life of Puppies: Terrible Twos. Part one of two. The return of the documentary following the early stages of dogs' lives. An English bulldog is piling on the pounds and is given a new exercise regimen. (R)

6.45 The Secret Life of Puppies: Terrible Twos. Part two of two. Big Ron makes big progress with his weight-loss programme, while eight-month-old French Bulldog Betsy turns her hand to doggy modelling. (R)

7.30 The Ant & Dec Story. Documentary celebrating much-loved duo Anthony McPartlin and Declan Donnelly, who in a career already spanning more than 25 years, have conquered almost every part of the TV schedules, from anarchic children's programmes to some of the biggest shows, including the Queen's recent birthday celebrations. Contributors include friends, fans and some of the celebrities who have fallen foul of the duo's trademark tricks, or actually found fame through their formats. (R)

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother.

10.05 Before They Were Stars. Dale Winton treks back through the TV archive to uncover embarrassing early brushes with fame endured by some of today's biggest stars.

12.05 Cricket on 5. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Gotham. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Do We Really Need the Moon? **8.00** BBC Proms 2017 **10.40** The Treasure Hunters **12.40** James May at the Edge of Space **1.10** The Rules of Abstraction with Matthew Collings **2.40** The Art of Australia **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.55 Ninja Warrior UK **1.00** Mr Bean **2.05 Film:** Honey (2003) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10 Film:** Honey (2003) **4.00 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.50 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **8.00 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **10.05** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Viral Tap **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3
11.40 The Darling Buds of May **12.45** Heidi **2.50** Wycliffe **3.55** Foyle's War **6.00** Margery and Gladys **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05 Film:** Casablanca (1942) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** Casablanca (1942) **2.05** Margery and Gladys **3.45** May the Best House Win **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
11.30 FYI Daily **11.35 Film:** Everything or Nothing: The Untold Story of 007 (2012) **12.15** Storage Wars: Texas **1.15** Storage Wars **1.40** The Big Fish Off **2.45** River Monsters **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** World Series of Darts: Melbourne **11.30 Film:** Life on the Limit (2013) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35 Film:** Life on the Limit (2013) **1.35** Quincy ME **2.25** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Made in Chelsea: Ibiza **12.00** The Goldbergs **1.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Specials **8.00 Film:** Shallow Hal (2001) **10.15** Don't Tell the Bride **11.20** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **12.25** Body Fixers **1.30** Gogglebox **2.30** Rude Tube: Superstars of the Web **3.25** Rude Tube **3.50** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Carry On Nurse (1959) **1.00** Antz (1998) **2.40** Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) **4.45** Multiplicity (1996) **7.00** Patti Cake$ Interview Special **7.05** Hocus Pocus (1993) **9.00** The Drop (2014) **11.10** Splice (2009) **1.15** Isolation (2005) **3.10** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists!, BBC2, 1.30pm
The bungling leader of a band of inept buccaneers is determined to prove his worth to his rivals and win the coveted Pirate of the Year award. Animated comedy, with the voices of Hugh Grant, Martin Freeman, Imelda Staunton and David Tennant. (2012)

TUESDAY
The Odd Life of Timothy Green, BBC2, 1.45pm
A couple bury a box containing their wishes for the perfect child they are unable to have. Soon afterwards, a mysterious boy with leaves growing from his feet shows up on their doorstep, claiming to be their son. Fantasy, with Jennifer Garner and Joel Edgerton. (2012)

WEDNESDAY
Flushed Away, BBC2, 1.35pm
A pampered pet rodent is flushed down a toilet and ends up in a vast underground rat city in the sewers of London. He is befriended by a quick-witted rat who offers to help him find his way home. Animated comedy, with the voices of Hugh Jackman, Kate Winslet, Ian McKellen and Shane Richie. (2006)

Up in the Air, Friday, BBC1, 11.50pm

THURSDAY
Cars 2, BBC2, 1.45pm
Racing car Lightning McQueen heads overseas to compete in an international grand prix, with events in Britain, Japan and Italy. He gets mixed up in international espionage when a case of mistaken identity leads to an encounter with two English spy cars. Pixar animated adventure sequel, with the voices of Owen Wilson and Michael Caine. (2011)

FRIDAY
Up in the Air, BBC1, 11.50pm
A corporate downsizing expert loves his life, detached from everyday existence and striving to achieve a personal goal of 10 million accumulated air miles. However, his lifestyle comes under threat by an up-and-coming executive with a revolutionary approach that would make his role all but obsolete. Comedy drama, starring George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick and Jason Bateman (2009)

Rory proves that laughter is the best medicine

If you saw sublime British comedy Man Up the other week on BBC Two, you might have been impressed by the frisson between Simon Pegg and Lake Bell's characters. However, doing a lot of the comedic heavy lifting was Rory Kinnear.

He's also been one of the strongest assets in the Count Arthur Strong BBC series, and as good as Michael Kitchen's Bill Tanner was in a couple of 007 adventures, after the success of recent James Bond offerings and video games, it's hard to imagine anyone else in the role.

Now Rory returns in the second edition of James Wood's period sitcom Quacks, which took a while making the leap from pilot episode to full blown series.

"I did the pilot," explains Rory. "Then it took more than a year before we were all available to get back together, which meant that James had time to work on the scripts and get everything in place. Then we could rehearse a month before we even started filming, which is an unbelievable position to be in."

There have been plenty of medical sitcoms over the years, from the Doctor on the Go series in the 1970s to Surgical Spirit a decade later. However, setting one in the 19th-century is one of the things that inspired Rory to sign up.

"I quite like doing stuff that I haven't necessarily seen before or feels reasonably distinctive, and James is so meticulous and thorough about his research that it's funny to do," he reveals.

With any period sitcom, there are bound to be comparisons with Blackadder, and use the setting as an excuse for slapstick, but Wood has managed to exploit the era itself.

As Rory explains, it was a "period of grim discovery and invention" into techniques that many 21st-century medics will take for granted. "All these people were pioneering new techniques that all of our lives have improved from, but equally there would have been plenty of failures along the way as well."

How does Quacks compare to the other projects he's worked on?

"The sets are quite lavish... Obviously having done Penny Dreadful for Showtime, that's set in a similar-ish time but a bit later. But in terms of sets and costume that have been created with this level of detail, it feels incredibly detailed and lavish."

In this week's offering, Rory is reunited with Spectre co-star Andrew Scott, in the guise of one of Blighty's best loved writers.

When Caroline (Lydia Leonard) lands an invitation to meet her hero, Charles Dickens (Scott), William (Matthew Baynton) finds himself in an awkward position when he exaggerates how much of a fan he is.

Meanwhile, John (Tom Basden) takes an orphan under his wing, and Robert (Kinnear) crosses paths with an uppity young volunteer called Florence Nightingale (Milly Thomas) who starts interfering with his work.

Dr Hendrick (Rupert Everett) is keen to curry favour with the nurse, and her influential family, so Robert has to work out how to get rid of her.

Rory Kinnear, Tom Basden and Mathew Baynton star in Quacks, Tuesday, BBC2, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Streetmate
Channel 4, 5.30pm
Some readers may remember the 1998 to 2001 show in which Davina McCall played Cupid on the streets of the UK. A sort of Blind Date on the hoof, and like that matchmaking series which was revamped recently, Streetmate has also been given a new lease of life. With Ms McCall busy reuniting relatives on Long Lost Family, presenting duties are now courtesy of Scarlett Moffatt. Stripped across the week, the new series should help boost little Ms Moffatt's fanbase, and prove an engaging way to ease down after a hard day.

Jamie's Quick & Easy Food
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Jamie Oliver offers viewers the ultimate set of go-to recipes for quick and easy-to-remember cooking having developed a collection of tasty dishes that each use just five ingredients, producing stress-free meals perfect for busy days and for those people who don't have the time or energy to devote to complicated cooking. On the menu in the first edition are seared scallops with black pudding, mashed potatoes and peas, as well as egg and mango chutney flatbreads, rib-eye steak, and an almond pastry puff.

TUESDAY
The Big Family Cooking Showdown
BBC2, 8pm
As Zoe Ball and Nadiya Hussain's culinary competition continues, the Karim family from west London go up against the Dawes from Hampshire. Aunt Zakila is queen of the kitchen in the Karim's household, but will her spice mix leave the judges wanting more when they visit the family at home? Ellie Dawes and her scientist boyfriend Sam share a passion for food, but it remains to be seen whether their bold use of ingredients will be a step too far for judges Rosemary Shrager and Giorgio Locatelli.

WEDNESDAY
Love Your Garden
ITV, 8pm
It's the last in the current series – and to mark the occasion, Alan Titchmarsh and the team are carrying out not one but two makeovers. They're in Nottingham to meet Marcellus Baz, who had something of a misspent youth, getting involved in gangs and pretty crime. However, the discipline of boxing helped to turn his life around, and now, at the age of 41, he's doing the same for troubled teens at his gym. Marcellus would love to turn the dank outside yard into a garden where the kids can learn to grow and cook healthy fruit and vegetables. But what he doesn't know is that as a thank you for all his hard work, Alan and co are planning to give him a new-look garden at home too.

THURSDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 8pm
TV presenter Fearne Cotton traces her family history, paying particular attention to her great grandfather Evan Meredith. Evan had worked down a coal mine from the age of 13 before training as a chemist, but one part of his life he was unwilling to talk about were his experiences in the First World War. Fearne delves into this period and discovers how he risked his freedom to follow his conscience. Turning to her mother's side of the family, she uncovers an ambitious ancestor.

Who Do You Think You Are?, Thursday, BBC1, 8pm

FRIDAY
The Crystal Maze
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Richard Ayoade guides members of the Watson family through the Aztec, Medieval, Industrial and Future zones, inviting 22-year-old captain Catriona, her mother Fiona and three others to tackle a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges to win some all-important crystals. The players need secure as many as possible in order to maximise the amount of time they can spend within the legendary Crystal Dome for their final test.

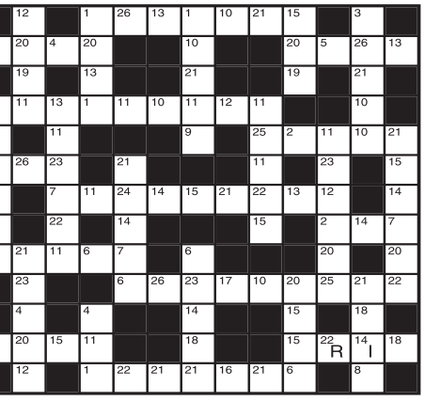
Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final
Channel 5, 9pm
Fifteen famous faces entered the Celebrity Big Brother house 24 days ago, and it wasn't long before some of them began to crack under the pressure. However, the tears and tantrums are almost over for another series as Emma Willis (who will be glad for a break having fronted the regular show over the summer too), whittles the remaining housemates down one by one until the winner is announced. Coleen Nolan defeated Jedward to triumph in the 19th edition of CBB back in January, but who will succeed the singer as the champ tonight and pocket £50,000 for their chosen charity?

BRAIN GYM

No.443

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



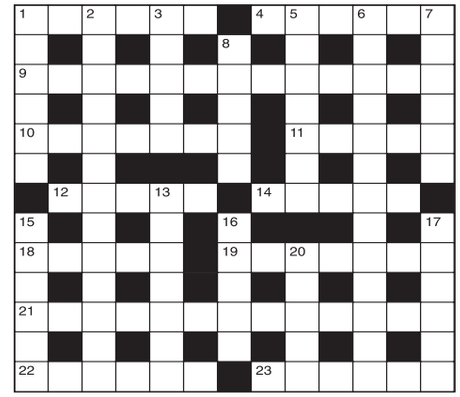
1	14 I
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22 R
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 Y	2 U	3 D	4 V	5 F	6 N	7 C	8 K	9 L	10 W	11 G	12 Q	13 T
14 E	15 J	16 O	17 P	18 A	19 R	20 B	21 Z	22 M	23 X	24 H	25 I	26 S

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. They're purely symbolic (6)
4. Free with money (6)
9. Promises, but only donates a single weapon (5,4,4)
10. Assemble for a prayer (7)
11. Of one's birth in S Africa (5)
12. Takes in a form of food (5)
14. It's cut from the wedding cake (5)
18. All right, a sanctimonious creature (5)
19. A political favour? (7)
21. The drink to lay one low? (5-3,5)
22. Untidy arrangement that would horrify Mrs Grundy! (6)
23. Right, put one's pay around making bets (6)

Down

1. What is left (6)
2. One has to be uncommonly rich to do so (4,4,1,4)
3. Directions to prosecute follow (5)
5. The attendant's not responsible for it (7)
6. Only a few words but they may carry conviction (5,8)
7. Posers seldom resolved (6)
8. Complications that naturally go against the grain (5)
13. Small article produced by an erratic knitter? (7)
15. Call around to watch TV (4,2)
16. It has been known to be tickled to death (5)
17. Gets engaged when he is in a bit of trouble (6)
20. Mince pies having a brown colour (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Concealed (6)
4. Mean (6)
9. Unaided (3,4,3,3)
10. United States (7)
11. Weird (5)
12. Jumped (5)
14. Postpone (5)
18. Garret (5)
19. Superintend (7)
21. In a somersault (4,4,5)
22. Scabbard (6)
23. Bomb hole (6)

Down

1. Turkish pipe (6)
2. Discriminate (13)
3. Boredom (5)
5. Not in any place (7)
6. Confusion (13)
7. Tremble (6)
8. Attempt (5)
13. Select (4,3)
15. Sentiment (6)
16. Arbour (5)
17. Hot spring (6)
20. Anaesthetic (5)

Sudoku

1					4		6	
4		7		9				3
	6	8	7		5			4
9						4	1	
					3			
	7	4		5				8
			5		7	8	2	
5				2			4	1
	2	9	1					6

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	8	7	4	6	1	2	5	9
5	6	9	2	3	7	4	1	8
4	1	2	5	9	8	7	6	3
9	4	6	3	2	5	8	7	1
1	5	8	6	7	9	3	4	2
7	2	3	8	1	4	6	9	5
2	7	1	9	4	3	5	8	6
6	9	5	7	8	2	1	3	4
8	3	4	1	5	6	9	2	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Desk calendar; 7 Fused; 8 Gusto; 9 Run; 10 Treatment; 11 Breaks; 12 Lay off; 15 Turnstile; 17 Ski; 18 Romeo; 19 Earns; 21 Racketeering.
Down: 1 Distributors; 2 Cos; 3 Ladder; 4 Nightmare; 5 Aisle; 6 Cost of living; 7 Fence; 10 Take stock; 13 Oasis; 14 Direct; 16 Rumba; 20 Rue.
QUICK - Across: 1 Recollection; 7 Cheat; 8 Spine; 9 Pea; 10 Derringer; 11 Relish; 12 Remiss; 15 Tortoises; 17 Aim; 18 Older; 19 Limit; 21 Celebrations.
Down: 1 Recuperation; 2 Lie; 3 Entire; 4 Testiness; 5 Owing; 6 Refreshments; 7 Crawl; 10 Discourse; 13 Inapt; 14 Ostler; 16 Ridge; 20 Mat.

Quiz

1. What is patchouli?
2. What type of bird is a budgerigar?
3. Which Clockwork Orange star kills Captain Kirk in Star Trek: Generations?
4. To which group of islands do North and South Uist belong?
5. Which Italian conductor was appointed music director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the 1990s?
6. Who was England's last Plantagenet king?
7. A marimba is a bass variety of which instrument?
8. Which environmental pressure group was founded in the UK in 1969?
9. What is the Australian town Coober Pedy famous for mining?
10. Who succeeded Peter Taylor as permanent manager of Leicester City?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Europe and Asia; 2 Crustacean; 3 Coronation Street; 4 Norman Mailer; 5 Roger Kemble; 6 Mount Kenya; 7 Tony Blair; 8 Irish; 9 Kobe; 10 John Nash.

Niner: SUBLIMATE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

12767 gives a girl's name,
329784 gives a second girl's name,
9755748 gives a third girl's name.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Flavours – fresh out of Thailand

FRESH layout, fresh food and a fresh experience – one word to describe our first ever foray into the wonderful world of Thai food . . . fresh.

Having eaten a friend's Thai cuisine efforts – and very good they were too – to say we had never experienced the delicacy would be overstating the fact.

However, just like you can't beat a curry from your favourite curry house, I'm pretty sure it must be the same for Thai food having enjoyed a wonderful meal at Thai Banana Leaf in Kingswinford.

It was a special occasion, my wife's birthday – and it being on Monday – we decided to go for something a bit more relaxed and this Thai restaurant ticked the box. We were playing a bit of risky game, as our two-year-old daughter was with us. Risky because the restaurant didn't take bookings until 6pm, so it was going to be a fairly late finish. But it was a decision that paid off.

Packed with the flavour – the sea bass dish

Worth a visit – the Thai Banana Leaf

LAYOUT

We were one of two groups eating while we were there – the other being a couple – but the waitress had kindly placed us beside the fish tank, which kept our daughter entertained for ages.

The layout was how you would expect: plenty of neatly-arranged tables, oriental statues and paintings, and of course the fish tank.

We had been told Thai food lives by five fundamental taste senses in each dish – sour, sweet, salty, bitter and spicy – which was like a set of rules sent down from heaven for someone with a palate like mine.

I went for the Fisherman's Soup, a spicy mixed seafood soup with lemongrass, galangal, kaffir lime leaves and mushrooms. Handily, every dish also comes with a 'chilli' chart, which simply meant the more chillis the higher intensity. Kelly went for the deep fried spring roll duck, served with hoi sin sauce. The first thing to mention about that dish was its size. There were four spring rolls when two would probably have sufficed. It was all eaten, but someone with a smaller appetite might want to try something else.

We had asked on arrival about a children's menu and, to be fair, there is the likes of fish fingers on the starter menu which, when ordered with a side order of chips, would make a good alternative.

Annabelle has always been good at experimenting with food so we decided to give one of the main dishes a go and went for the Pud See Eaw, stir fried rice noodles with broccoli, spring green, bean sprouts and egg.

As she loves broccoli and scrambled egg, we thought it was worth a go, especially as it came with a choice of chicken, which we went for, or pork, beef, duck, prawns or a vegetarian option.

It turned out to be a great decision because she really enjoyed the combination and even gave the spring greens and bean sprouts a go.

I decided to stick to the fish theme and the seafood pad prik, stir fried seafood with red curry paste, garlic, pepper, spring onion and coriander with oyster sauce served on sizzling plate, caught my eye, while Kelly went for a whole steamed sea bass with ginger and spring onions in soy sauce.

There was so much to choose from too so, if you're not a massive seafood fan, fear not as sizzling platters, chefs specials, set menus, and noodle and rice dishes are also available.

JAMES DRIVER-FISHER

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Outback's Gin And Vodka Festival... The Perfect Tonic!

If you are a gin or Vodka lover, we have a date for your diary.

Join us at the Outback Nightclub in Queen Street, Wolverhampton between 12 noon and 9pm on Saturday 19th August, the venue for one of the biggest Gin and Vodka festivals in the Midlands.

We have over a hundred delicious signature Gins and more than sixty unique Vodkas.

Tickets for the event are just £5.00 and bar samples are included.

While having a fantastic time at our festival, you will be able to sample, taste, learn and buy from a variety of Gins and Vodkas that you would not easily find elsewhere.

Something for everyone at Outback!

FLAVOURSOME AND UNIQUE

We have hand selected some of the most flavoursome and unique spirits on the market for your enjoyment distilled with only the finest botanicals and grains from master distillers.

It was only fitting that we created this festival to showcase them, just for you.

Everyone loves a Gin or Vodka and our festival will bring people together and is a great place to meet and socialise. We have lots of facts about your favourite tipple along with live music, street foods and tasting sessions.

UNIQUE SOCIAL EVENT

We want everybody to enjoy this unique social event and have a great experience so that you will spread the word and recommend future events to others so to get the most out of the festival and to avoid any disappointment or misunderstandings on the day please read the following terms and conditions.....

- This is a ticketed event only..... Tickets are soon be released on line.
- Bar samples are limited to four with your entry ticket.
- Your ticket does not entitle you to full measure drinks which are charged at £5.00 each.
- A serving of premium Gin or Vodka at £5.00 includes a premium mixer and garnish.
- The event is restricted to over 18's only. (Challenge 25 in place).
- Food will be available to buy and we will advertise on the events page of our website and Face book page a month before the event.
- If you have any queries please feel free to e-mail us at the.outback@mail.com

.....We look forward to seeing you on the day and sharing a Gin and Vodka with you.

Cheers!

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Good sized home has 'wow factor' kitchen/diner

A good sized family home, 5 Telford Gardens, in Merry Hill, comes with a 'wow factor' kitchen/diner.

Close to a wide range of local amenities including shops, schools, health services and bus routes all to hand, it is for sale through Rees Page at £154,950.

Well presented throughout and having double glazing and gas central heating, it has modern appointments.

Well worth a viewing, the property is situated within a popular residential estate, just south west of the city.

In more detail it has a storm porch, a kitchen/diner with a range of wall and base units with under lights, tiled splash-backs, a fitted extractor hood, integrated ceramic hob and electric double oven with a grill. There is space and plumbing for an American style fridge-freezer (available by negotiation).

There is also an integrated dishwasher and washing machine, sink and drainer with a 'chefs hose' style tap unit, hardwood flooring, wiring for a wall mounted TV, multiple inset ceiling spotlights, 'Velux' skylight window and a door into a living room.

The living room has a living flame gas fire and marble hearth plus a wood surround.

A patio door opens to the garden and stairs rise to the first floor. Off the landing is a pull down loft ladder.

Bedroom one is has an open wardrobe recess and is positioned to the rear. Bedroom two has built in wardrobes and lies to the front. Bedroom three overlooks the rear garden.

The bathroom has a modern suite complemented by tiled walls and flooring, a panel bath with a shower over, wall mounted wash basin, a WC, chromed towel rail and chrome fitments.

Outside, to the rear is a neat landscaped south facing garden with a lawn, patio, brick barbecue and a shed with power plus a gated side access.

The fore has been landscaped to provide an extensive driveway.

MERRY HILL £154,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Rees Page
TEL: 01902 577775
EMAIL: property@reespage.com

KEY FEATURES

- Modern property
- Good family home
- 3 bedrooms
- 'Wow factor' kitchen/diner
- Popular estate

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CLAVERLEY £280,000

HIGH STREET

- Freehold
- No chain
- Bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Through longe and dining Room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Garage

Newbridge £230,000

THREE BEDROOM
Malborough Gardens

- Freehold
- No chain
- Bathroom
- Living room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Garage

Wednesfield £129,000

THREE BEDROOMS
14 ELM AVENUE

- Freehold
- No chain
- Semi-detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Living room
- Kitchen
- Wet room
- Detached garage

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* Standard Legal disbursements in connection with your sale may be payable

Impressive family home has a 37ft garage

An impressive family home with a 37ft garage with conversion potential in Wood Lane Close, Short Heath, Willenhall, is for sale through Connells at offers over £295,000.

This is a highly deceptive and impressive detached home situated in a cul-de-sac location.

Outside, this versatile home has a pleasant frontage providing ample off road parking with double opening gates leading to the side secure parking area leading to the

SHORT HEATH £295,000

37ft detached garage. There is a pleasant and charming rear garden which also includes two outside storage areas and gardeners WC.

It has an entrance porch, a generous entrance hall, a wonderful re-fitted open plan family entertainment kitchen/diner with a fantastic selection of wall and base units with granite work surfaces and a breakfast bar. The ground floor also has a fantastic open plan family lounge/diner with an impressive orangery/entertainment room with a drinks bar. This characterful property also has three double bedrooms with extensively fitted wardrobes, large family bathroom with adjoining wet area and a separate first floor shower room.

For further information or to book a viewing, call Connells on 01902 710170.

B

Tettenhall
01902 759 888

Wombourne
01902 894 141

WOMBOURNE

SYTCH LANE ● Dignified 4 Bed Detached family residence with pretty "cottage" styling set in premier residential position on village outskirts standing in gardens of just over 1/3rd acre approached through electric gates ● Well-proportioned interior appointed to an excellent standard ● Hall ● Fitted Guest's Cloaks ● Elegant Lounge with bi-fold doors ● Games Room/Leisure Room ● Sitting Room/Dining Room ● Absolutely stunning Living Kitchen including a full complement of state-of-the-art Bosch appliances, superb fitted units with granite work surfaces and bi-fold doors ● Utility ● 4 Bedrooms, three with wardrobes and one with en-suite ● House Bathroom ● Double-Garage (23ft x 16ft) with electric door and Store Room plus additional single Garage ● Gas CH & uPVC double glazing ● Delightfully established rear garden offering high degree of privacy (EPC: D)

OFFERS AROUND £685,000

WOMBOURNE

SYTCH LANE ● Elegantly designed and stylishly appointed 5 year old Detached in much sought after position on Wombourne outskirts yet convenient for the excellent village facilities and schools ● Well proportioned layout that includes 4 double Bedrooms ● Reception Hall ● Fitted Guest's Cloaks ● Lounge with contemporary stone fireplace ● Dining Room ● Impressive Kitchen and Breakfast Area superbly fitted including a full range of integrated appliances ● Utility ● Master Bedroom with wardrobes and En-Suite ● 3 further double Bedrooms, one with access to house bathroom ● Spacious House Bathroom with both bath and shower ● Electric gated entrance to driveway parking and Double Garage with electric door ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Enclosed lawned rear garden (EPC: B)

OFFERS AROUND £489,950

CODSALL

● Superior quality Detached residence enjoying excellent setting in close proximity to open fields on the village outskirts but well placed to benefit from its renowned selection of amenities. ● Supremely stylish and surprisingly spacious accommodation, most attractively presented and lavishly appointed. Must be seen! ● Fitted Cloakroom off Hall. ● Lounge with contemporary-style marble fireplace. ● Separate Dining Room opening onto rear Sitting Room. ● Additional Study. ● Stunning Breakfast Kitchen with striking white fittings and contrasting black granite plus integrated appliances and adjoining informal Dining/Sitting areas. ● Three double Bedrooms (originally four and relatively easily reconverted). ● Classical white Bathroom and en-suite Shower Room. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Garage with Laundry off. ● Gravelled forecourt parking facilities. ● Pleasantly private south-facing garden with extensive feature decking. (EPC:D)

OFFERS AROUND £389,950

WOMBOURNE

OUNSDALE ROAD ● Deceptively spacious and usefully enlarged traditional style 3 Bed Semi in established position of popularity, handy for the village facilities and close to schools ● Stylishly upgraded kitchen and bathroom facilities ● Neatly presented interior ● Entrance Porch and Hall ● Dining Room ● Extended Lounge with attractive fireplace and living flame gas fire ● Refitted 19ft long Breakfast Kitchen ● 3 good sized Bedrooms, two with wardrobes ● Refitted Bathroom with 'P' shaped bath and shower ● 25ft Long Garage with Gardener's Toilet and Store/Home Office/Gym ● Driveway parking ● Delightfully established 120ft long (approx) rear garden with a range of outbuildings (EPC: tbc)

OFFERS AROUND £265,000

PENN

PENN ROAD ● Exceedingly spacious modern style 3 Bed Detached in convenient position near to local facilities and with direct access into the city centre ● Well proportioned interior layout requires inspection to appreciate the roomy accommodation ● Reception Hall ● Fitted Guest's Cloakroom ● Elegant Lounge with impressive fireplace ● Separate Dining Room ● Well fitted Kitchen including built-in appliances ● 3 generous sized Bedroom, one with extensive fitted wardrobes ● Bathroom and separate Toilet ● Gas CH and double glazing ● Alarm ● Garage and driveway to rear accessed off private driveway to The Woodlands ● Pleasant gardens to the front and rear with backdrop of trees (EPC: E) ● ● NO UPWARD CHAIN ● ●

OFFERS AROUND £250,000

WOMBOURNE

BANBERY DRIVE ● Superbly presented and usefully extended modern style 3 Bed Detached in favoured cul-de-sac setting on the southern fringe of village close to excellent facilities, Sainsburys supermarket and schools ● Modified interior layout including ground floor extension providing Sitting Room/Dining Area off the lounge and an enlarged Kitchen ● Entrance Hall ● Generous sized through Lounge with feature fireplace ● Separate Study/Dining Room off the kitchen ● Master Bedroom ● 2 further good sized Bedrooms, one with fitted cupboard ● Refitted House Bathroom with both bath and shower ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Garage and driveway parking ● Easily manageable private rear garden featuring patio and astro turf artificial grassed areas (EPC: D) ● ● NO UPWARD CHAIN ● ●

OFFERS AROUND £234,950

FINCHFIELD

● Excellent ground floor Apartment nicely positioned in select small development with convenient access to good selection of amenities within highly regarded neighbourhood. ● Generously proportioned accommodation with particularly comfortable contemporary specification. ● Living Room with distinctive feature fireplace. ● Impressively appointed Kitchen including range of integrated appliances. ● Two good double Bedrooms. ● Bathroom and en-suite Shower Room. ● Gas-fired central heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Communal gardens and parking facilities. ● LEASEHOLD. Ground Rent and Service Charge payable. (EPC: C)

OFFERS AROUND £189,950

WOMBOURNE

CHAPEL STREET ● Surprisingly roomy, stylishly appointed and superbly presented modern style 2 Bed Mid-Terraced House in pleasant private road setting just off Common Road near to local shopping, public transport and schools ● Spacious interior layout ● Entrance Lobby with useful store/meter cupboard off ● Pleasant Living Room with feature spiral staircase to first floor ● Comprehensively fitted Kitchen including Rangemaster range cooker ● 2 Bedrooms, one with mirror fronted wardrobes ● Luxuriously refitted Shower Room ● Gas CH and uPVC double glazing ● Impressed concrete driveway to front ● Delightful, low maintenance rear garden (EPC: C) ● ● VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ● ●

ASKING PRICE £160,000

DUNSTALL

● Stylish semi-detached Gallery Bungalow tucked away in pleasant cul-de-sac setting, particularly conveniently positioned for easy access into city centre. ● Compact appearance conceals comfortably proportioned accommodation, well suited to first purchase, executive pied-a-terre. ● Living Room with feature fireplace. ● Fitted Kitchen. ● Bathroom including shower. ● Galleried double Bedroom with built-in wardrobe. ● Electric heating. ● Double glazed windows. ● Allocated parking facility. ● Enclosed rear garden with westerly aspect. (EPC: F)

OFFERS AROUND £84,950

PENDEFORD

● First floor Flat in self-contained maisonette style pleasantly positioned overlooking wooded landscaped green in this popular residential neighbourhood. ● Neatly presented accommodation with nicely appointed specification. ● Living Room with feature fireplace and fitted gas fire. ● Fitted Kitchen. ● Bedroom with built-in wardrobe. ● Bathroom including shower. ● Double glazed windows. ● Parking facility. ● Small lawned garden enjoying south-westerly aspect. ● Long LEASEHOLD. (EPC: E)

OFFERS AROUND £69,950

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Sheaves Close, Sedgemoor Park
Offers in the Region Of £239,950

2	4
2	EPC D

Crantock Gardens, Bilston
£230,000

	EPC

Hallgreen Street, Bilston
£185,000

2	3
2	EPC B

Sorrel Drive, Bilston
Offers in the Region Of £169,950

1	3
2	EPC C

Marbury Drive, Bilston
£169,950

	EPC

Bunkers Hill Lane, Bilston
155000

2	3
1	EPC E

Brierley Lane, Bilston
£185,000

1	3
1	EPC B

Bridgewater Drive, Coseley
145000

1	2
1	EPC TBC

Goldborough Close, Coseley
£137,500

1	3
1	EPC D

Spacious and impressive bungalow is detached

COMPTON
£260,000 >>>

A spacious and most impressive detached three bedroomed bungalow in Cherrington Gardens, Compton, Wolverhampton lies in a corner setting in a much sought after area.

It is for sale through Jackson Lile & Close at £260,000.

It has a porch, a spacious reception hall, an impressive lounge/dining area, a kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, a shower room, gardens to the side, front and rear, a carport, garage, double glazing and gas central heating.

In more detail the impressive lounge/dining area has a stone feature fireplace with a living flame fire. The kitchen includes a built-in CDA gas oven, space for a microwave, and a separate gas hob.

Contact Jackson Lile & Close on 01902 712812.

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Four-bed property has been extended

WOLVERHAMPTON
£239,950

Being well presented and extended, this four-bedroomed semi-detached family home in Goldthorn Hill, Wolverhampton, lies within walking distance of Goldthorn Park.

It is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £239,950. An exceptional property, it briefly comprises a large driveway, a garage, a porch entrance, two spacious reception rooms, a modern kitchen and diner as well as an extended room that can be used as a bedroom or reception room. This room also leads to an en-suite. The ground floor also has access to the beautiful rear garden which is great for barbecues. To the first floor there are three double bedrooms, one single bedroom and a family bathroom.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.

Jackson
LILE & CLOSE

team

WOODFIELD HEIGHTS TETTENHALL

This is a delightful detached family residence standing in large, beautifully landscaped gardens extending to approximately a third of an acre. It enjoys a particularly pleasing setting in this much favoured residential area only a short distance from Tettenhall Village Centre. Reception hall, attractive lounge, dining kitchen, leading off the hall is bedroom 4/dining room/study, guests cloakroom. On the first floor there are three good bedrooms and a recently refitted bathroom, gas CH, double length garage. The property offers considerable opportunity for redesign and adding value. Energy Rating: E. No upward chain.

Offers, guide £295,000

WYNN ROAD PENN

A most impressive and much extended semi detached family residence of considerable appeal, ideal for the growing family or family with a dependent relative, pleasantly situated in this very popular road. Enclosed porch, hall, bedroom 4/ study, ensuite shower room with w.c., dining room, extended lounge, "L" shaped breakfast kitchen, fully boarded loft room/play room, 3 large bedrooms (bedroom 3 has been extended to provide a study area), deluxe bathroom, uPVC DG, CH, ample parking space, attractive rear garden with large summer house/workshop. Energy Rating: D

£265,000

JEFFCOCK ROAD PENN FIELDS

An extended Detached Family Residence of much character and appeal in need of some modernisation but offering exceptional scope for improvement, enjoying a highly convenient setting in this popular neighbourhood. Excellent local amenities are close at hand and Wolverhampton City Centre and the University are approximately 2.5 miles travelling distance. Standing in a beautiful garden setting, the property is ideal for the growing family or family with a dependant relative. Tile Hung Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Room, Lounge, Sun Loggia, Kitchen, Enclosed Rear Lobby, Garden Store and Toilet, Four/Five Bedrooms, Bathroom, GCH, Large Attractively Laid Out Rear Garden. Energy rating: F

£219,995

CHERRINGTON GARDENS COMPTON

A spacious and most pleasing detached bungalow of much attraction commanding an impressive corner setting in this very popular residential area. Enclosed porch, reception hall, 24ft lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen, uPVC double glazed conservatory, three bedrooms, shower room, uPVC DG, gas CH, carport, garage, landscaped gardens. Potential development prospects. Awaiting EPC

£260,000

"WENDOVER" HIGHLANDS ROAD FINCHFIELD

An impressive semi detached family house of traditional character and appeal enjoying an attractive setting only a short distance from Bantock Park and handy for excellent local shops, schools and bus services. Enclosed porch, hall, dining room, lounge, fitted breafkast kitchen, enclosed porch/small garden room, three good sized bedrooms, shower room, separate toilet, double glazing, gas CH, garage, landsacped gardens. Awaiting EPC. No upward chain

Offers, guide £235,000

DEBORAH CLO, GOLDTHORN HILL

An admirable modern detached house ideal for young families or first time buyers, holding an attractive setting just off Goldthorn Hill. Excellent local shops, schools and bus services are close at hand and Wolverhampton City Centre and the University are both within easy travelling distance. Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Garage, GCH, UPVC DG. Energy Rating: E.

£175,000

REGIS ROAD TETTENHALL

This is an attractive middle terraced house built in the late nineteenth century enjoying a pleasant setting in this highly popular residential area within easy walking distance of Upper Green and Tettenhall village centre. Hall entrance, front living room, rear sitting room, enclosed uPVC double glazed verandah, kitchen, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, ensuite shower room, attic room, front garden, generous sized rear garden, gas CH, uPVC DG. Energy Rating: D. No upward chain.

Offers in the region of £175,000

HOLLY GROVE PENN FIELDS

A surprisingly spacious semi detached house of traditional character enjoying a pleasant setting in this very popular road just off St. Philips Avenue. The property is in need of some updating and redecoration but offers exceptional potential for improvement. It has the added benefit of standing on a very wide frontage which affords off road parking space for approximately four cars; alternatively, it offers considerable extension possibilities (subject to planning permission).Enclosed porch, reception hall, front living room, rear sitting room, breakfast kitchen, verandah, toilet, three bedrooms, refitted bathroom, timber garage, attractive rear garden, part gas CH, majority uPVC. Energy Rating: E

Offers from £167,000

NEWHAMPTON ROAD EAST

A spacious late Victorian terraced house pleasantly situated overlooking playing fields and conveniently located for the city centre and the University. Porch, hall, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms, box room, bathroom, uPVC DG, CH, gardens. Ideal family home or buy to let. Energy rating: F

Offers £149,950

PENNANT COURT PENN ROAD

An impressive period ground floor apartment of much character enjoying a highly convenient setting only a short distance from the City Centre. Ideal first time buyer or investor seeking rental income. Communal entrance, hall, lounge/dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing, electric heating. £5000 discount for exchange of contracts within 6 weeks. Energy Rating: D. No upward chain.

Offers £99,500

BALFOUR CT BALFOUR CRES

A distinctively styled duplex apartment on two floors, enjoying a highly convenient setting in this popular residential area. The property is ideal for first time buyers or buy-to-let investors (subject to terms and conditions). Reception hall, lounge with balcony off, dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, recently refitted bathroom, uPVC double glazing, electric heating, garage. No upward chain. Energy Rating: E

Offers £89,995

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Lovely property on the market with no chain

BILSTON
£239,950

<<<

This lovely property, 2 Sheaves Close, Sedgemoor Park, Bilston, is for sale through Skitts at £239,950 with no chain.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, two reception rooms, a re-fitted modern kitchen, a further sitting room (previously used as a cinema room), four bedrooms - the master with a dressing room and en-suite shower room. Outside, there is a workshop with two separate areas and a driveway to the front. The entrance hall has wood-style flooring and stairs off to the first floor. The lounge has a feature inset gas fire and the dining rom has an under-stairs storage cupboard, wood-style flooring and French doors to the garden. The re-fitted kitchen has a range of wall and base units, a built-in oven, a four-ring gas hob and cooker hood, integral fridge and dishwasher.

Call 01902 353 578.

Stunning home has sweeping driveway

CALF HEATH
£475,000

A simply stunning property in Queens Road, Calf Heath, Wolverhampton, comes with a sweeping paved driveway to the front.

Being immaculately presented, this five-bedroomed house is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £475,000. The accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall with a cloakroom/WC, lounge with feature fireplace and French doors out to the rear garden, a dining room, a study, a fabulous fitted kitchen with a breakfast area and a utility off, further convenient downstairs cloakroom/WC and an integral garage. To the first floor there are five bedrooms and the master of course has the luxury of an en-suite, as well as a family bathroom.

Call 01902 427257.

Rees Page

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PERTON £219,000

CUNNINGHAM ROAD

WOW! What a delightful home. A detached bungalow residence that has been lovingly extended, refurbished and modernised over the past few years with a contemporary look to the inside and well stocked landscaped gardens to the outside. Situated in a cul-de-sac in popular Perton, West of Wolverhampton. This two bedroom property commands viewing. (EPC = TBC)

NEW INSTRUCTION — 2 2 1

WEDNESFIELD £199,000

MEON WAY

Modelled into a generous family home over the past few years and providing spacious accommodation. Well presented throughout and modernized plus DG and CH, conservatory, driveway, landscaped gardens. No upwards chain. (EPC 68 = D)

UNEXPECTEDLEY BACK ON THE MARKET — 3 2 1

MERRY HILL £154,950

TELFORD GARDENS

BACK ON THE MARKET, but surely not for long - A great opportunity for a wonderful end-terrace family home. Sought after location. Ideal for nearby shops, schools and much more! Very well presented, clean and modernised, this property must be viewed. Call us now to discuss. (EPC 66 = D)

UNEXPECTEDLEY BACK ON THE MARKET — 3 1 1

WOLVERHAMPTON £650* PCM

BROAD GAUGE WAY

1ST FLOOR APARTMENT
2 BEDROOMS
EN-SUITE
CLOSE TO RAILWAY STATION
EPC 80 = C

2 1 2

MERRY HILL £132,950

STRATHFIELD WALK

WOW, Take a look! A good family home with modern DG and CH (both where specified) Storm Porch, rear yard with Veranda and Parking in rear cul-de-sac. Plus Cottage style front garden with views over fields - ideal if you have Kids or Dogs. Situated on West W'ton/South Staffs border - VIEWING IS A MUST & OFFERS ARE INVITED. (EPC 75=C)

NEW PRICE — 3 1 1

WEDNESFIELD £125,000

PRESTWOOD ROAD WEST

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WALSALL
£134,950

Nicely placed on a modern estate, this two-bedroomed semi-detached home in Yorkshire Grove, Walsall, is an ideal first-time buy or an investment property.

It is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £134,950. It has a rectangular entrance hall, a downstairs WC, a kitchen/lounge with patio doors to the rear garden and a laundry cupboard.

A staircase from the lounge leads to the first floor.

Upstairs, the master bedroom is double in size. The second bedroom also has space for a double bed with full carpet fitting and a neutral design. The family bathroom has a double shower and WC and a sink. The property has a driveway.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.

Stunning house with excellent commuter links

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£695,000 <<<

A stunning Art Deco-styled detached house, 17 Muchall Road, Wolverhampton lies in a desirable area of the city, with easy access to the centre, its retail outlets and excellent commuter links.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £695,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises of a generous entrance hall, a sumptuous lounge that leads to a conservatory, dining room, family/games room, spacious breakfast kitchen, ground floor bedroom with en suite, ground floor WC. The first floor holds five good sized bedrooms, a bathroom and shower room, a delightful galleried landing and a terraced balcony overlooking the rear garden.

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Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, August 17, 2017

BMW 1 Series update inside and out

By James Parker

The BMW 1 Series Sports Hatch received updates to the model range this summer, including a redesigned interior.

Enhancements include a completely redesigned dashboard with Sport and M Sport models, featuring a decorative stitching line that, along with new trims, adds to the premium feel of the cabin.

Latest

Also contributing to an upgrade of the interior are Pearl chrome accents on the window switches, air vents, glove box handle and around the redesigned cup holders, which have a new sliding cover. The new 1 Series also features the latest indicator and wiper stalks, with revised functions and design, in line with the new BMW 5 and 7 Series models.

All new 1 Series models are also now fitted with the latest generation of BMW's ID6 Navigation which features Live Tiles and enhanced graphics.

On models fitted with Professional Navigation (as part of Professional Media package), the larger 8.8-inch display also features BMW Touch functionality and, with the optional Full Black panel display (standard on M140i models and the Professional Media package), the dials now feature a new Black optic display with 3D-effect dials.

Servotronic steering is now fitted as standard. This adjusts the amount of steering assistance to suit the speed the car is travelling at, enhancing driver comfort at low speeds and improving vehicle stability at higher speeds. The range of available colours has been increased, with the addition of Sunset Orange and Seaside Blue metallic paint, while a Cognac Dakota leather is now available as an interior trim.

Now topping the trim levels is the new BMW M Sport Shadow Edition. This features all the specification from the popular M Sport Plus package (M Sport braking system, Harman Kardon loudspeakers, sun protection glass). Additional standard equipment includes cruise control, rear park distance control and extended lighting) along with a wide array of unique additional features. These include black kidney grilles, dark chrome tailpipe, 18-inch M light alloy wheels in Jet Black or Bi-Colour, darkened LED headlights and smoked rear lights.

The BMW M Sport Shadow Edition is priced at just £1,900 more than the cost of M Sport model, prices start from £26,440 on-the-road.

A dark chrome tailgate is one of the features

Darkened LED headlights are a feature

The M Sport Shadow Edition has the M Sport Plus package plus a range of extras

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Annual Mileage	8000	Credit Completion Fee	£0.00
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BMW FS Deposit Contribution	£2,500.00	Total Amount Payable	£23,376.48
Total Deposit	£5,842.14	APR	4.90%
On the road cash Price	£20,771.86	Excess Mileage Charge (Pence Per Mile)	5.18
Amount of Credit	£18,022.86		

For more compelling offers, visit: **www.rybrookwolverhamptonbmw.co.uk/finance**

Fuel economy figures for the 116d Sport 5-door Sports Hatch: Combined 72.4mpg CO2 emissions 103 g/km. Figures may vary depending on driving style and conditions. Figures are obtained in a standardised test cycle. They are intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not be representative of what a user achieves under usual driving conditions.

Rybrook Limited is a credit broker not a lender.

Finance examples are for BMW Select agreements for the models shown above. Applies for new vehicles ordered between 1 July and 30 September 2017 and registered by 31 December 2017 (subject to availability). Retail customers only. *On the road cash price is based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Retailer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. **Optional final payment and option to purchase fee not payable if you opt to return the vehicle at the end of the agreement (vehicle condition, excess mileage and other charges may be payable). Finance available subject to credit acceptance to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time.'BMW Select' is a form of hire-purchase agreement provided by BMW Financial Services (GB) Limited, Summit ONE, Summit Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0FB. You will have a 14 day statutory right to withdraw from the agreement. We commonly introduce customers to a selected panel of lenders including BMW Financial Services. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to such lenders. This introduction does not amount to independent financial advice.

Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, August 17, 2017

Major cleaning operation switches fleet to Škoda Fabias

Skoda proves a sweeping success with Molly Maid

By Anthony Martyn

Škoda UK has won a sparkling new contract with the domestic cleaning franchise, Molly Maid, to supply an additional 15 Fabia S 1.0 Hatch models to its UK fleet and a further 60 in the next year.

Established 33 years ago, Molly Maid's UK wide cleaning operation utilises 370 cars across its fleet to carry out over 300,000 cleans every year. 30 Škoda Fabias have already been added to the fleet with 15 new vehicles currently on order, and plans to increase numbers further by replacing existing Nissan, Toyota and Vauxhall models following the end of vehicle cycles.

The UK's number one domestic cleaning company relies on its vehicles to provide an efficient service to customers and reflect the professional image of the business.

The Fabia's sleek design and award-winning practicality and performance complimented the cleaning firm's requirements perfectly.

The Fabia was chosen thanks to its fantastic value for money, with low p11d value and highly competitive lease cost compared to competitors. Plus, the BIK rate was a desirable factor to keep overall running costs low for drivers. The Fabia also offers a sizeable 330-litre boot (seats up, 1,150 litres with the rear bench folded), which is ideal to carry bulky cleaning equipment.

Jonathan Holden, chief operating officer of Molly Maid

The resilience, efficiency and coverage of the Škoda retailer network was essential to securing the deal. With a high annual turnover of vehicles, the ability to deliver new models quickly to staff nationwide is vital to ensure excellent customer service is maintained.

Jonathan Holden, chief operating officer of Molly Maid, commented on the new deal: "The Škoda Fabia fitted the bill completely for us, right down to the fundamentals of cost – not just for the business but our drivers – practicality and overall design.

"Image matters in this arena, and that was a huge consideration, as each car is required to be in the Molly Maid navy blue with our specially designed livery, to act as a roaming billboard for the company.

"We made the move to Škoda, as previous manufacturers couldn't offer the same combination of benefits as the Fabia.

"We also need a rapid response from a dealer network to both supply and service vehicles to save on costly downtime and Škoda has proven time and time again to deliver on all fronts."

Henry Williams, head of fleet at Škoda UK, added: "We are delighted to be working with Molly Maid, they have a huge network of drivers across the UK who mainly drive in towns and cities, therefore the compact Fabia was the ideal choice.

"The five door S model offers a deceptively sizable boot and the vehicle's fuel efficiency and running costs ensure that it is economical for business as well.

"We look forward to building on our relationship with Molly Maid in the coming years."

The ŠkodaFabia is a modern small car available in four trim levels: S, SE, SEL and Monte Carlo with prices starting from just £11,100.

The Fabia utilises the crystalline shape and sharp lines of the Škoda design language and incorporates the brand's fundamental values of providing space, comfort and functionality.

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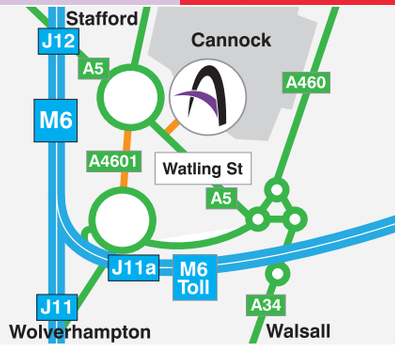

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lost & found

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Tortoiseshell cat.
Springfields area of Wolverhampton.
She is microchipped and wearing collar,
Reward offered for safe return.
07752 911611.

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1 Family

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PRE-OWNED CARAVAN with decking. Inc all 2017 site fees, full 12 month season. Payment options available (T&Cs). £10,995. Call Paul on 07960 944721 for details.

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TOP PRICES PAID
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WANTED Touring caravan, under £1,800.
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holidays

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what's on

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3 Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

CRICKET FIRST DAY COVERS 1970 - 95. Domestic, national, international. 320 plus binders, £150. 01902 722014 evenings.

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QUALITY FURNITURE
Luxury adjustable, electric single bed. blue suedette headboard. Perfect condition.
Cost £722. Accept £250 ono.
Two drawer Welsh dresser. Round carved Welsh table, barley legs. Two dining chairs.Corner display cabinet, butterfly hinges. Glass display cabinet, mid brown wood. Beautiful carved dragon welsh desk. 2 drawer curved chest. Light brown nest tables. Two pink velvet recliner armchairs and sofa. Doll collection with Certificates.
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0750 4550167.

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A MUST CLEAR OUT
Cookers, Fires, Autos, Tumble dryers, Built in ovens, Hobs, Fridge freezers, lots more at low prices.
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We also supply sleepers and decking

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Try Us.
Must be good, clean & working
07944 351351

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Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
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Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

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Anything old.
**** TOP PRICES PAID ****
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Please telephone Ron
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Replace your leaking flat roof with our one-piece Rubber Flat roof
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A backed bargain, slate, tile, flat, lead work, fascias and gutterwork, Free Quotes
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Roofing & Scaffolding
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All Roofing and Scaffolding Work carried out.
35 years experience
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rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

tiling

BOBS HOME INTERIORS
Wall and floor Tiling
Bathrooms Fitted
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upholstery

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Pountney St, W'ton. WV2 4HX
01902 712484/424296

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Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery

For great business results call 01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

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A Family run business that you can trust
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Free Estimates | Est 40 Years
Daisy Bank, Bilston 24 hours / 7 days a week
01902 404 698

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR DOG?
Sunnyside Kennels
We take in stray dogs from Walsall, Wolverhampton and South Staffs areas.
Please contact us on:
01902 790618.
Open Mon-Sat, 11am-4.45pm.

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit
www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE
1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall. WS4 1LN.
01922 627013.
Open Monday to Saturday 11am - 5pm.
Sundays - Bank Holidays 11am - 4pm.
Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs.)
Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

VIVARIUM 4FT complete set up, two horsefield tortoise outside pen, £300. 01902 498354.

WANTED. Aviary birds for large private aviary. Also pigeons and poultry for beginner and parrot for house pet. 07970 485491.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

plant, machinery & tools

GEITH MANUAL QUICK Hitch (65mm pins) to fit CAT 312 or Hitachi 13 tonne excavator with large selection of buckets to fit. Digging Grab (60mm pins). Bog/Crane Mats 5 tyne ripper to fit 9 tonne bulldozer (D5G). 07970 417772.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

6 Property

accommodation wanted

WANTED
2/3 bedroomed house to rent directly from Landlord only, must be willing to accept two Friendly dogs, all areas of Stourbridge considered (accept Lye and Brierley Hill). **Call Tony 01384 896898 07583 520159**

houses for sale

BRIDGNORTH RETIREMENT
Apartment for over 60s. One large bedroom, full refurb luxury shower room and kitchen, new decor and carpeted throughout, large lounge with juliet balcony. Riverside situation with nice views, private car parking, easy access to town. Totally secure and managed 24/7. **Offers around £115,000 07971 279249 for details / viewings.**

land

WANTED Plot of land, back gardens considered. Any area. 07774 898966.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

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You agree the price, we buy the house...
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Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
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We can help you make a fresh start
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you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
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ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
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mobile homes

FULLY RESIDENTIAL CHALET/BUNGALOW
36 x 20
Country location, very private with lounge, kitchen / diner, hall, 3 bedrooms, double glazed, oil fired central heating, garden.
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accommodation to let

ROOMS TO LET Tettenhall Rd
From £65 p/w
Ensuite, bills inc
No DSS or pets
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J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* £90pw*
Rooms *from* £65pw*
*Includes Most Bills
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Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

BILSTON RD, W'TON, large flats & bedsits, 5 mins walk to Bilston Town Centre, DSS 35+ tenants welcome, low deposits, 07791 476943

FLATS & FLATLETS - TO LET in Wolverhampton. New large 2 bedroom flats now available. Call 07590 911398 or 07428 226610

A 1 BED FURNISHED FLAT Tettenhall area.CH. No DSS 07976 263435 / 01902 700 028.

LARGE ONE BED LUXURY Apartments, Bradmore. Rent £475pcm. 07590 911398

ONE BED FLAT CH, DG, £100pw. Netherton area. Deposit required. 07976 781003.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

7 Jobs

engineering

PRODUCTION WELDERS piece work rates, Wolverhampton based. Telephone 07966 795578.

hair & beauty

PART TIME SHAMPOOIST required for salon in Oxley - flexible hours Call 01902 782297

full time - general

A YOUNG PERSON To work and learn the Metal finishing trade at Willenhall company, suit school leaver. Tel 01902 607457

Admin Assistant / Receptionist required full time to work for a well-established food manufacturing company based in Wolverhampton. Experience in Sage Accounts 50 and Sage 50 Payroll. Please email covering letter & CV to: nigel@phoenixbrands.co.uk

HGV1 DRIVER'S Required for Royal Mail Wolverhampton - AM & PM Shifts available - Ongoing work available throughout the rest of this year - Paying up to £18.03PH - Please call Kirsty at Pertemps on 0121 500 5161

CLASS 1 DRIVERS
We are currently seeking Class I Drivers based at our Stourbridge site. With an improved employee package now being offered including: Increased base rates; Expenses, Nights out and Meal allowances; Life Insurance and Pension Scheme; Sickness & Accident Insurance; Driver development programme; Driver uniforms supplied; Operating with a modern fleet of vehicles in a planned, safe and clean environment.
Application forms available, visit www.andyfreight.co.uk and return by email to vacancies@andyfreight.co.uk or by post to - Andyfreight Ltd., Folkes Road, Lye, Stourbridge. DY9 8RB

TOTAL CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES LTD
ACCOUNTS OFFICE JUNIOR
Due to continued expansion, we are looking for an Accounts Office Junior.
Rate of pay to be discussed.
Opportunity to gain AAT qualification.
Please forward a copy of your CV either via e-mail or to the postal address below:
Private & Confidential, Miss H Portch
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES LTD
Pinnacle Point, Boundary Industrial Estate, Stafford Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton WV10 7EL
01902 624 220 or 07818 080 050
Hollie.Portch@total-group.co.uk

NML Four Ashes
NML Team Leader
NML currently has a vacancy for a Team Leader Position. The successful candidate will be required to work full time on the dayshift, five days a week and is likely to include a weekend rota.
The principle role will be to oversee workflows and to line manage staff to ensure that all available resources are utilised in the most efficient manner to deliver the services offered by NML.
The ideal candidate will have experience of working in a UKAS accredited laboratory at a supervisory grade. They will also have excellent organisational skills and will be able to assess and prioritise workloads on a daily basis.
A full job description is available on request. If you would like to apply for this role please forward your CV and Covering Letter, explaining why this position is for you to; recruitment@nmr.co.uk
Closing date for receipt of applications is 23rd August 2017.

courses

BIRMINGHAM: 25-26 SEPT & 30 NOV.-1 DEC.
STOKE: 2-3 SEPT. TELFORD: 23-24 OCT.
WOLVERHAMPTON: 16-17 SEPT.

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drivers

CARTWRIGHTS WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES LTD of Telford
are expanding and require
HGV class 1 and Class 2 drivers
to join our team, immediate start for the right candidates. Must have experience in operating Skip Loaders, Hook Lift and Municipal vehicles, hold a clean driving licence, CPC and Digital cards and a good knowledge of Shropshire. Good Rates of pay.
Contact John or Scott 01952 587587 (7am-5pm) or Scott 07535 011469 John 07779 083593.

EXPERIENCED 7.5 TONN Multi Drop Driver required 3 days per week. 30 years plus for insurance. Willenhall area. Call 07932 307160

part time - general

EXPERIENCED BOOKKEEPER W'ton area. Sageline50, sales@lavogue.co.uk or call 07866 592293

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

FIAT PUNTO EVO
2010, 54,000 Miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, reversing senors, Bluetooth, stop start.
£2,400
01384 270259

FORD FIESTA
2011, black, petrol, 3 door, 46,000 miles, MoT due April 2018, full service history since 2014, abs, air con, power steering, CD, stereo, aux.
Good condition!
£4,200 ono.
07929 128044.

FORD PUMA 1.7 COUPE
Three door. 2002.
Silver.
MoT July 29, 2018.
Only 84,000 miles.
SH (11 stamps).
A/C. Heated front screen. E/W. CD. PAS. Drives superb.
Immaculate Condition.
£795.
07939 498854.

HYUNDAI i10 STYLE 1.2 HATCHBACK
5-dr, manual gearbox, petrol, 2011, black, MoT, alloys, sunroof, electric windows, central locking, aircon, 8,995 miles only, heated front seats, lady owner, immaculate condition.
£3,500 ono
01562 911634 / 07871 521216.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
JAGUAR S TYPE
V6 SPORT
Diesel Auto
Beige, 2005
12 months MoT,
77,000 miles.
£3,250 ono.
01384 638424.

KIA SPORTAGE XE
2009, 81,000 Miles, Silver, abs, electric windows, air con, FSH, 9 months Mot, metallic paint, central locking, 1 Previous Owner, Excellent Condition.
£3,000 ono
07802 366512

MAZDA MX5 1.8S CONVERTIBLE
MoT April 2018, immaculate, racing bronze, EW, chrome roll bars, 10 services, mohair hood, Pioneer sound.
£1,750
0121 384 7888 / 07771 428793.

PEUGEOT 107
62 reg, 5dr, new MoT, 20,000 miles, free tax.
£2,950 ono.
01902 682321.

SKODA YETI SE TDi 2.0 DIESEL
Reg April 30, 2016.
12,000 miles. FSH.
Still under guarantee.
Add Blue Engine.
Showroom condition.
Sale due to bereavement.
South Sropshire.
£13,450 ono.
01547 530161 / 07765 194970.

TOYOTA AVENSIS
2.0, Diesel, 2006,
5-dr hatchback, grey,
70,600 miles, long MoT,
one owner, service history,
cruise control, parking
sensors, etc.
£1,950 ono.
01902 764921.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
TOYOTA AGO
61 reg,
5-dr,
red,
40,000 miles,
alloys,
10 months MoT.
£1,995
07851 213316.

BARGAIN
VAUXHALL
VECTRA LIFE
5dr, low miles, 2006, MoT, until May 2018, service history, very clean.
£1,999 cash only
07980 435999.

VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 GLAM
13 plate.
One lady owner.
6,100 miles.
As new condition.
MoT.
£6,250.
01952 812070.

VAUXHALL ADAM SLAM
2013, 35k, green/cream, fsh, climate control, mood lighting, many other features, model has a high specification, immaculate.
£5,400 ono.
07813 052573.

BARGAIN
VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE
W reg.
Good condition.
Low mileage for year.
£250 ono.
01902 661007.

VAUXHALL ASTRA
2009, 42,600 miles, convertible, grey, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, alarm, long MoT, full Vauxhall s/h.
£2,800.
07940 198062.

cars under £1500

CITEROEN C2 VTR 1.4 HDI
Diesel, 41,000 miles,
£30 Road tax (annually),
60mpg,
very cheap car to run.
£1,500 ono
07738123578.

MUST BE SEEN
FIAT PANDA 1.1 ECO
2010, black,
66,500 miles,
good clean condition,
new tyres,
recent service including timing belt change,
12 months MoT,
one previous owner,
£1,395 ono.
01384 863330 or 07905 432569.

BARGAIN
FIAT PUNTO
04, Facelift model.
Full MoT.
Four door.
Very good condition throughout.
£550.
01384 251328 / 07972 169554.

BARGAIN
FIAT SEICENTO
2000
1100cc, 5 months MoT, new exhaust, very good runner.
£210 for quick sale.
07758 269672.

BARGAIN
FORD KA
Petrol, 53,000 miles, blue. 1.3cc, MoT January 2018, 3 owners, good clean car inside and out.
£750 ono
07838 897643.

FORD MONDEO 2.0 GHIA
2004 plate, 84k,
same owner last 4 years,
Blue,
12 months MoT.
£595.
07913 981460.

FORD STREETKA
2003, 61,500 miles, metallic blue, alloy wheels, abs, MoT, leather interior, luxury convertible, good condition.
£450 ono.
01562 630445.

MUST BE SEEN
HONDA HRV
2001, 1600
Nice clean car, 84,000 miles, 2 owners, tow bar, MoT December.
£700 ono.
01902 762591 or 07563 055250.

BARGAIN
MINI ONE
02 reg.
Black with purple roof.
Full MoT.
F.S.H.
125,000 miles.
New clutch.
£1,000 ono.
07525 071575.

BARGAIN
NISSAN MICRA 988CC AUTOMATIC
PAS, CD, 80k, MoT, 3-door, very economical, good runner.
£275
07818 498054.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2
2005, black, 12 months MoT, good condition, 79,500 miles, CL, electric windows, radio CD, alloys, air con, genuine reason for sale,
£650 ono.
07956 968338.

RENAULT LAGUNA 1.9DCi
Diesel, 2004, red, 5-dr, MoT end Oct, radio, CD player, reliable, good runner, first to see will buy.
Bargain £325 ono.
01902 6613691.

BARGAIN
RENAULT SCENIC 1.4
W Reg., silver,
MoT to November,
alloys,
needs slight attention but drives well.
Good condition.
£250 or very near offer.
07498 288103.

SUZUKI ALTO 1.0CC
04 reg,
full MoT,
41k,
£30 year tax,
new tyres.
£575
07791 113080.

SUZUKI SWIFT 1.L GLX
FSH, electric door and mirror, 27K genuine miles, all original glass and screen with heated back screen, full MoT. new brakes, new battery recently full service, every day use, good runner, registration P53MOX.
£600 ono.
07790 978446

VAUXHALL VECTRA
2003, 118,000 Miles, Blue, AC / EW, Good condition, Near full service history
£999 ono
07896 920899

BARGAIN
VW GOLF 2002
1.4 Petrol, spares or repair, runner, electric windows, electric mirrors, heated seats, electric sunroof, air bags, black, two door, alloys,
£300.
01902 262179.

driving tuition

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80. £20 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

motorbikes

ALLBIKES & ALLSPARES
WANTED MOTOR CYCLES
WE BUY ALLBIKES EVERY DAY
Wanted Low Mileage, late clean Bikes
• Immediate Collection & Payment
• Top Dealer Prices Paid!
DONT DELAY, CALL TODAY
01902 312939 - Days
07748 150779 - Eves
bikesallspares@gmail.com
All Bikes, Clifton Street, WV3 0QT

ALL BIKES WANTED Anything considered. Pristine, non runners, barn finds, unfinished projects Highways 07971 793661 or 01902 773608.

Highway MOTORCYCLES
WANTED Clean Used Bikes
MOT While-U-Wait No Re Test Fee
*****AUGUST SPECIAL*****
**** MOT £29.65****
OIL & OIL FILTER CHANGE FROM £29.99
****QUICK FIT TYRES****
****QUICK FIT CHAIN & SPROCKETS ****
PHONE FOR BEST PRICES
MOSELEY STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON
01902 773608
highway-motorcycles.co.uk

KAWASAKI 65CC MOTORCROSS MOTORBIKE
Very fast, sold, all good, great little bike, 2009.
£950 ono may swop for bigger bike.
07495 752322.

NFL MOTORCYCLE TRAINING CBT to full licence. Call 8am - 9pm for deals 01902 494422.

LOOK

PEUGEOT 50CC REV AND GO SCOOTER
07 reg, no MoT, red.
Very good condition.
With as new battery.
£175 ono.
Telephone 07514 081104.

WANTED
Raleigh Moped.
01384 235945.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

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W.T.R. VAN HIRE Connects, Transits, Lutons with Tail lifts, pick-ups Open seven days. 01902 457002 / 01384 79090.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

9A HOLLYBUSH LANE
YOUR LOCAL BUYERS OF
Clean Cars, Vans, 4X4's, MPV's, Classics, Sports
Vehicle Damaged, MOT Failure or Engine Problems?
We Don't Care!!!
Contact
01902 340 444
hollybushlanemotors@gmail.com

spares & accessories

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

spares/parts

THULE HIRE & SALES Roof Boxes, Roof Bars and Cycle carriers. Best Prices. **Wolves Hire 01902 746723 WV6 0LE**

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE
An application for a Premises Licence has been made by: Mr Mo Camara to City of Wolverhampton Council in respect of premises known as: Chill Wine Bar which are situated at: 4-6 High Street, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton. WV6 8QT
The application is as follows:
Alcohol Licence Monday - Sunday 12pm till 11pm
Live Music Licence Monday - Sunday 12pm till 11pm
Recorded Music Licence Monday-Sunday 12pm till 11pm
Any representations by interested parties or responsible authorities regarding the application must be made in writing to: Licensing Services, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SH by September 9, 2017.
It is an offence, liable on summary conviction to a fine up to Level 5 on the standard scale, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE MALE 38
If you are looking for a genuine, honest, caring male who is fun to be around, then look no further!
I enjoy cycling, bowling, cinema, pubs, meals out, walks, holidays etc and would like to meet a like minded mature lady aged 30 to 44 years.
All areas considered.
Genuine replies only.
Photo appreciated (returned).
Box Number P20890 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

BRIERLEY HILL BULLETS
Charter Standard Club
Under 8's Manager required.
We have players but need Manager for new season.
Contact Tony: 07977 308183 or Keith: 07896 666589.

WITHYMOOR COLTS
Charter Standard Community Status Club.
All Managers minimum FA Level 1 and CRC Checked.
Under 13's, West (2017/18 Season).
Require
OUTFIELD PLAYERS
to join existing Squad.
Please Call, Stuart 07932 383597. Mitch 07387 193421.

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01902 317878 ClassifiedAds

Express & Star DATING

YOUR* regional dating service**, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. ***REAL people in YOUR region

Try it.. You'll love it!

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To ***Place*** your advert call:

0844 381 5936
follow the simple instructions. You will also get ***£10 SMS CHAT CREDIT***

To ***Place*** your ad by text

Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098 FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

YOU can now ***Date ONLINE*** or via your mobile just visit:

http://dating.expressandstar.com

To ***Reply*** to members call:

0906 500 3955

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** by text:

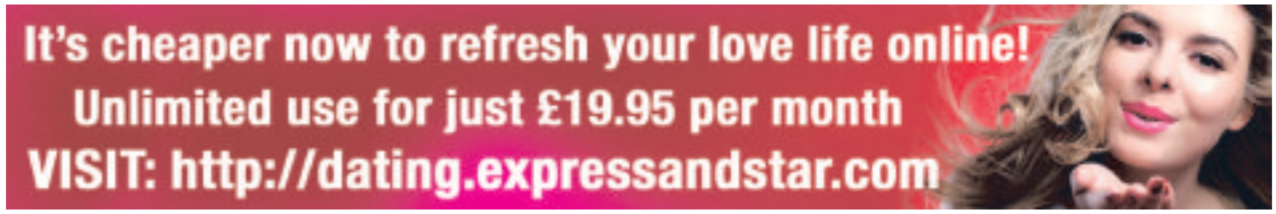
Text... **REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Been left a message? ***Pickup*** your replies on:

0906 500 3957

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you***.. ***visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**



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Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

ATTRACTIVE lady, young at heart, would like to meet genuine caring guy for coffee and chats, plus days out. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6035338**

TINA, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure with average looks. I want a similar man, GSOH looks unimportant. Age is but a number. I have no car but can accommodate. **Text Only. Box: 4145368**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

JANE, new to area, hoping to meet an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette with boyish leggy figure. N/S with GSOH. I've a good job and small flat which I own. **Text Only. Box: 4099268**

ATTRACTIVE lady 61yrs young. Looking for friendship, maybe more with genuine gent. I'm feminine and curvy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428157**

MANDY, 64yrs but still fit and sexy. Hoping to meet younger local lad for good daytime fun. Chats and texts any time. **Text Only. Box: 4050784**

CHRISTINE, 60 something lady, blue eyed blonde. Sincere, solvent and kind. Call me if you are interested in meeting up. Looks unimportant. Must be N/S. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428155**

PAULINE, 59yrs, nurse who loves her uniform! I'm married but work odd hours so can meet easily. ACA. **Text Only. Box: 4110283**

I am a 57-year-old lady, 5ft 8ins tall, short brownish hair. I am of medium build, outgoing, caring and WLTM similar male. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6024848**

TRACY, 68yrs, recently retired and has time on her hands. Would love to meet a much much much younger chap for carefree times. **Text Only. Box: 4006039**

ATTRACTIVE widow, attractive, blonde, GSOH, solvent with good figure. All that's missing is a nice man 60+. Call me if you are interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428139**

HELLO, my name is Pia, I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man. I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her. **Text Only. Box: 4177099**

MAY, 64, widow, GSOH, lonely and WLTM a nice, kind gentleman of similar age, hopefully someone who likes walking and animals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428217**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

SLIM attractive lady, 59yrs, feminine, kind, loves life. Call me or text me your number and let's meet up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428143**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

SHEILA, 64, widow, GSOH, likes to get out and about, walking, animals, reading, classical music, WLTM a male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428181**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

CHRISSIE 42, pretty, leggy and feminine searching for romance seeks tall, dark, hunky guy to set her heart on fire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428237**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

GENUINE caring lady 65yrs, varied interests, solvent, loves life, feminine, WLTM gent of any age for life's pleasures. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428151**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

DEBBIE 44, lonely and fed up brunette, slightly bonkers and in need of love and attention, seeks Mr Special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428199**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

PEGGY young 58, married but lonely, WLTM a nice man similar age for days, evenings out and friendship. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6025217**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

FEMALE 66, smoker, enjoys music, TV, meals out/in, looking for male, 68-75, for friendship maybe more. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 4416972**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**

JAN 40s, small outgoing affectionate blonde, likes cuddles, seeks romantic male to share special times and bring sunshine into her life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428089**

GEORGINA, 50s, attractive, happy blonde, loves sport, theatre, seeks intelligent, lively male to share the fun side of life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428053**

SUE 53, voluptuous, outgoing, cuddly and bubbly, loves a joke and just wants fun, flirting and laughter in her life again, seeks her Mr Charming. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427913**

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427897**

EMMA 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427811**

ATTRACTIVE lonely widow, mid 70s seeking gent for friendship. Pls call or text. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427879**

First 3 txts free. All messages received thereafter £1.50. You may receive up to 4 messages for each message you send. Text STOP to 63222 to exit at any time. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. Service is not computer generated. Messages are responded to by real users. No meetings guaranteed. If arranging a meeting choose a public space & do not give personal details to people you have not met. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 7207130 email: ohdear@nogoats.com

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427533**

MARY 46, shy curvy brunette looking for someone to be a good fun friend, to laugh with and love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428073**

CAROL, attractive lady 55yrs young, slim, tanned, brunette. If you are genuine and looking to date then call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428153**

RACHAEL, 50yrs, blue-eyed attractive lady, loves films, music and home life. WLTM gent 50-70yrs. ACA or text. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428149**

TAMARA, 44yrs, beautiful Indian lady seeks a Muslim gent 40+ **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428147**

IF you are interested in meeting an attractive black lady then please call me. I'm Nikki, 57yrs, attractive, interested and kind. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428145**

CAROL, 60 something lady with a wicked sense of humour, please call or text for more info. I promise to reply to all callers. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428141**

LADY, 63, WLTM a gentleman of similar age, for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428029**

ATTRACTIVE, slim brunette, 54, widow, kind, caring, romantic, enjoys the arts, sightseeing, dining out, seeks professional gent with GSOH and family values, with mutual interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428013**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 57yrs, great sense of humour, now looking for good times and good memories. Hoping to meet gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427883**

GEMMA, 25yrs, green eyed brunette lady, loves to read raunchy books so has a huge imagination, hoping to expand upon it in real life. Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427881**

STUNNINGLY attractive black lady, 50s, with blissful imagination, you have to call to hear what's on offer, you won't be sorry!! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427877**

CULTURED lady with wicked sense of humour, late 60s seeking humorous man for purposeful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427875**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 51yrs, loves the countryside, walking, fun times. WLTM a genuine man for romance, relationship. Call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427873**

RACHAEL, 42yrs, naughty girl who needs lots of pleasure. Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427871**

MICHELLE, 28yrs blue eyed blonde with busty figure. I'm very mature for my age and hope to meet a man to care for. I'm willing to please. Call or text me and I will get straight back to you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427649**

PAM, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with like-minded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427753**

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427767**

BROWN eyed Brummie female 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5877942**

SUSAN, 41, sophisticated, confident, discreet, attractive female seeking respectful professional male for daytime meets and loving friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427729**

KAZ blue eyed bubbly female 38, full of life, OHAC, employed, looking for nice N/S responsible middle aged male for fun times, nothing serious. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427607**

ANNETTA, hoping to meet a very caring, loving male, 55-75, someone genuine and down to earth, to enjoy company and hopefully share a future together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427301**

MANDY divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427581**

SUE, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549**

JANE, attractive 50 something lady. I love to cook and care for my man. Is that you? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427651**

All messages received £1.50. Text STOP to 89990 to exit at any time Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged This service is not computer generated. Messages are responded to by realservice users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to chose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207720 7130 or email: support@jmedia.co.uk

Customer support
Call **0207 720 7130** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
or email us at **support@jmediauk.co.uk**

Single Men

VERY fit, elderly widower, loves walking, bird watching, exploring Europe, WLTM a lady for companionship. Please reply via box number. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428171**

MALE 46, genuine and honest and very caring looking for a LTR with lady. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 5422168**

MALE 20s, chilled out and happy in life looking for woman to share life with. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6034839**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE, late 60s, N/S, retired, 5ft9, slim build, enjoys holidays abroad, weekends away, travel, meals out. Looking to meet female, N/S, who enjoys similar interests, to share good times together, for friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428219**

JEFF, 60s, tall, fit, young outlook, N/S, car owner, seeks similar lady for friendship, outings out etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428175**

SINGLE dad, tall, blonde hair, good looking, keeps fit, loves the cinema, meals out, looking for a single lady for date nights. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428163**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, genuine lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

HI my name is Jay. I'm looking for a lady to have a lovely evening with, maybe once or twice a week. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427927**

JACK 23, single, tall, young looking guy, kind and respectful, seeking female age/looks not important for mutual NSA fun. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6026038**

MALE 64, fit, non-smoker, looking for NSA fun with lady, any age. I am kind and caring but miss the touch of a woman. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6025714**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 56, 6ft, WLTM an attractive female, any age, for discreet fun and intimate times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428109**

MALE, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

FUN loving Irish man, seeks relationship, for fun times and going out. Please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428077**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

I am Kev, 57, looking for a lady in my life. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6023170**

SHAUN, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, employed, animal lover, likes walks in the country, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497**

GENTLEMAN, kind, considerate, tactile, thoughtful and caring, hobbies include growing fuschias and vintage tractors, looking for a country girl, someone with no plans of grandeur. Truth and trust number 1 as I trust you so you tell me the truth, and vice versa. Looking for someone to hold and love forever. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427791**

SINGLE male, 43, looking for female friends for txt, phone chats, maybe more. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6017886**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE 40s, 5ft 8ins, brown hair, seeks lovely honest girl for fun and friendship please. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6018513**

MALE, a young 60 would love to meet a cuddly lady. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6016333**

MALE, 50, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

MALE 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945**

HI my name is Ben. I am 43 years old, 5ft7, slim build, smart dresser, looking for a bored similar lady for naughty texting. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6007244**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551**

GENUINE male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461**

MALE 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

MALE, 51, 5ft11, romantic, sporty, seeks lady for holidays, meals out, concerts, cinema and theatre and to share good times. All calls answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427841**

LONELY man, 68, white, GSOH, happy go lucky, seeks lady friend, 50-60, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427797**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 57, WLTM an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425759**

COLIN, five foot eight, blue eyes, bundle of fun to be around, likes growing fuchsias for showing, vintage tractor for showing, weekends away, going out and staying in WLTM a lady for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420089**

ANDY 58, single, self-employed, fit, WLTM attractive fashionable lady, non-smoker, who likes to keep in shape, for friendship. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5503219**

Gay Singles

Join our Gay online service ***FREE*** visit: ***localgaydate.co.uk***

GAY feminine female with GSOH WLTM gay feminine females for friendship, possible relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5631357**

BI male retired, v v broadminded. Seeks a buddy 4 text fun, am interested in naturism and any likeminded mature men, 60-80. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6037452**

MALE crossdresser, 60, looking for mature male for relationship. Cannot accommodate. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6024491**

I am retired and would like a fellow gay for friendship and fun. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6022718**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

CALL CHARGES*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send, Service only available where phone icon shown. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, RH16 3EG, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app, your ad may also appear on our dating app. wc. 14/08/17

Gareth Barry with students at Ellesmere College, where he is patron and where son Oscar attends

Barry in action for Everton against his former team Villa, where the ex-skipper remains a firm favourite

Barry first played for Villa in 1998 and made 441 appearances

Gareth Barry gets involved with Chelsea's Diego Costa

Every game counts as Barry closes on record

MAY 2, 1998 – an otherwise insignificant date but for the fact that this was the day a certain Gareth Barry made his Premier League debut.

Few could have ever envisaged that, almost two decades later, that fresh-faced youngster who had arrived from the south coast would be on his way to setting the all-time Premier League appearance record.

Barry's move to Villa Park from Brighton, when he was just 16, was controversial enough.

He arrived with Michael Standing – a fellow midfielder who played zero first-team minutes in four years before leaving for Bradford.

Barry's debut against Sheffield Wednesday, however, was a glimpse of things to come.

On that day he featured alongside current England boss Gareth Southgate and the late Ugo Ehiogu in a defensive trio under then boss John Gregory.

There were little doubts over his level of talentand a decade later, in 2008, he was a proud captain at Villa Park.

Chalked

An adopted Brummie, Barry was the key cog in Martin O'Neill's eye-catching outfit which pushed the 'established' top four so hard in the mid-noughties.

Barry had chalked up 441 appearances in claret and blue before he moved north to Manchester City, claiming a "new challenge" was required. Within a few years he was an FA Cup winner and Premier League champion.

But the most prized of all could be yet to come.

For that Villa status is one thing, and winners medals are another, but Barry, now 36, is not far from etching himself into English top flight history.

Now with Everton – but coveted by Tony Pulis at Albion – Barry has another year on his deal at Goodison Park and is set for a huge individual milestone.

Ryan Giggs' Premier League appearance record stands at 632, Barry is just four behind on 628.

He can't hide from the scale of the honour.

"I do like stats. I'd be lying if I was saying I don't look out for them," said the former Villa skipper.

"That record's been spoken about more the closer I get now. Obviously it's not the same now being 36 as when you are 26 but in terms of being able to do a job I'm still feeling really strong and still enjoying it.

"Enjoying it is more important than anything and at the minute I've got a great manager that understands my age and what I can and can't do.

"If I don't play any more Premier League games I'd be immensely proud of how many I've done and what I've achieved.

"If I do break it then my name's on top of the pile and my parents will probably be extra proud. We'll see what happens."

Barry, who is now based in Cheshire, has recently been made a patron of Shropshire's Ellesmere College's football academy, where his son Oscar attends.

And there remains a sparkle in his eye when discussing Villa.

He points to the length of time spent at Villa Park and at Bodymoor Heath, where he developed from a boy into a man – from spindly academy hopeful to worshipped first-team skipper.

"I look out for Villa's results all of the time," he added. "The majority of my friends are from Birmingham, supporting either Villa or Blues. There are so many memories at Villa for me.

"Because I've been gone so long people forget how many games I did actually play – it's a time I'll never forget, they brought me into Premier League life.

"My game improved when I left school and went to Villa. The coaches, youth team, reserve team and to the first team, they were fantastic with me.

"Any supporter will tell you that they like young players coming through. If a player attached to an academy can eventually go through to being captain and wear that armband, it's fantastic for them. I was lucky enough to do it at Villa and really enjoyed it. They taught me how to become a professional footballer and what's needed. It's a time I'll never forget."

The Villa Barry left in 2009 are a long way from the club's current plight. Steve Bruce knows the importance of his first full season at the helm. Barry believes his former side are in the right hands.

"It's good to see Steve Bruce there, he had a little sticky patch but he's a fantastic manager.

"I think Villa are finding their feet again. It's been a few tough years with the relegation, which was always going to be hard, but they just needed that bit of time to settle and Steve Bruce is the right man to do that.

"He'll get a squad that'll eventually start to find their feet and begin to push for promotion."

A quick search of Barry's name on internet forums or social media will instantly display a plethora of nostalgic Villa Park faithful yearning for a Barry return.

Snapped

Earlier this year he attended the Stiliyan Petrov Foundation dinner, where a photo was snapped of a smartly-dressed Barry posing with Villa's current midfield prodigy Jack Grealish. The Solihull-born 21-year-old has a long, long way to go eclipsing the sort of reputation Villa's former No.6 built.

He'll be 37 by next summer, at the end of his Everton contract and with – presumably – the Premier League record safely under his belt.

A Villa return couldn't happen...could it?

"You never say never but as always Everton is the sole focus for me at the moment."

And what will come after the boots are hung up? "I'm not ruling anything out, I'm not going to do the badges while I'm still playing. I've made that decision.

"I want to finish playing and look back and see if I do miss being around it and whether I want to go into coaching. I'm not one to plan too much so I'll go from there.

"I've got one more left which will take me till I'm 37 which, for a footballer, is veteran stages – so I realise where I am in my career. I'm enjoying it still and that's the most important thing."

SPORTING FEATURE

By Lewis Cox

"If I don't play any more Premier League games I'd be immensely proud of what I've achieved."

Wolves old boy in £18m Hornets move

FORMER Wolves player Andre Gray has become the most expensive Black Country footballer in history in an £18 million deal from Burnley to Premiership rivals Watford.

Wednesfield-born Gray, 26, scored nine times in the Premier League last year. Formerly on the youth books at Wolves, he was released by the club at the age of 13.

Gray becomes the most expensive footballer from the area, more than double the £8.5 million paid for Stan Collymore by Liverpool.

The striker was knifed in a gang fight over Christmas in 2011. In 20012 Gray was suspended for four matches and fined £25,000 over homophobic Tweets he had posted.

Gray, who progressed through Shrewsbury's youth system, joined Luton in 2012 and made more than 100 appearances before moving on for an undisclosed fee in 2014 to Brentford, for whom he scored 20 goals in 52 games. He had a loan spell at Telford in 2009-10.

Golfers tee up chance to play at The Belfry

GOLFERS from The Chase and Penn clubs have teed up a round at the Ryder Cup course The Belfry for the national final of the American Golf 9 Hole Individual Championship.

Home golfer Paul Elsey held off Laurence Horan by a point in the regional qualifying held at Penn Golf Club.

They now join qualifiers from all over the UK and Ireland in front of Sky Sports' cameras for the grand final on September 7 and 8. They are both also in contention for the Tournament of Champions in Mauritius.

"Our 9 Hole Championship is hugely popular," said Daniel Gathercole, director of marketing and communication at American Golf. "It gives golfers the chance to play championship golf after work and still be home at a reasonable time.

"Golf has struggled to find a place in people's busy lives over recent years so we're delighted that events such as the 9 Hole Championship have proved so popular."

Hawks take flight for national T20 final

C&R HAWKS are gearing up for the biggest game in their short history after reaching the finals day of the ECB National T20 tournament.

The Birmingham League Division Two outfit beat Essex League side Wanstead and Snaresbrook at Walsall CC's Gorway ground to reach the showpiece final at Derbys 3aaa ground, home to Derbyshire County Cricket Club. Highlights of the September 11 clash will be broadcast on Sky Sports.

Skipper Mubeen Rashid said: "This is already the furthest any Birmingham League club has ever got in the competition and that is something we are very proud of."

Hawks only formed in 2014 by the merger of Hawkins Sports and Cannock and Rugeley. But they have some serious talent in their ranks, including Omar Ali, the younger brother of England star Moeen. Kabir Ali, Moeen's cousin, played 14 one-day internationals himself between 2003 and 2006 and though now aged 36 has proved a threat with both bat and ball as Hawks battled their way into the later stages of the tournament.

Turton at the double to give Wulfrunians a great start

NICKY TURTON'S brace helped AFC Wulfrunians to a winning Midland Premier Division start with a fine 2-0 victory at Rocester.

The former Chasetown forward struck twice in the second period to get new boss Richard Forsyth's tenure up and running.

Marvin Nisbett's goal was not enough for Sporting Khalsa, who got their league started with a 2-1 home reversal to Rugby Town.

In the West Midlands Division One, Bustleholme crushed bottom side Willenhall Town 11-0 with Tipton Town making it two wins from two, also winning impressively – 4-0 at Wem Town. Elsewhere, Old Wulfrunians drew a six-goal thriller against Gornal Athletic at the Memorial Ground.

After victories in their opening two games, Black Country Rangers shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw with Bilston Town Community at Queen Street.

Dudley Town lost 3-0 at home to Bewdley Town.

Elsewhere, Wolverhampton Casuals are still winless from two outings after going down 4-3 at home to Shifnal Town.

Smethwick made it two wins from two with a 2-1 success at Wednesfield.

And Tividale boss Dave King reckons they still have another gear to find after they got their West Midlands Regional Premier League campaign under way with a win.

The Beeches side downed neighbours Cradley Town 1-0, thanks to a Joe Lawley penalty.

Ollie jets off to UAE with England

Ollie Green in England gear

BEACON CRICKET CLUB all-rounder Ollie Green is aiming to be a smash hit when he joins the international cricket ranks next month.

The 21-year-old is heading to the United Arab Emirates to play for England in the Indoor Cricket World Cup.

The seven-day tournament swings into action on September 16 in Dubai's Insportz Club, with Green and team-mates aiming to stop Australia's domination.

Green will have a key role to play after being named vice-captain of the 21-and-under squad. The call-up caps an impressive rise through the indoor ranks for Gornal-based Green, who first started playing at the Wolverhampton Sports Arena when he was 13.

He now plays for Solihull Dragons in the Birmingham-based Action Indoor League and in the National League for Leicester.

"I am absolutely buzzing and can't wait to go," said Green, who plays outdoors for Beacon in the top flight of the Staffs Clubs Championship. "I am really looking forward to it. I was pretty confident of my chances during the trials and I was delighted when I learned I had been picked. There were eight weeks of trials and then a provisional squad was selected.

"Myself and the captain, Ben Scott, were informed a couple of weeks before the final squad was named. We were asked our thoughts on the make up of the squad and they were taken into consideration."

His parents will be flying out to offer their support while Green is also thankful for the backing he has received to help fund the trip. Green will be joined by two other local cricketers – West Bromwich Dartmouth's Sachin Patel and Michael Gallear from Cannock & Rugeley Hawks.

Cricket win even sweeter as rivals kept in danger

WOLVERHAMPTON'S victory over Walsall saw them keep their rivals in relegation trouble near the foot of the Birmingham & District League Premier Division.

Danny Cox top scored for Walsall with 57 but a total of 157 all out never looked likely to trouble the hosts. Matthew Kleinveldt took 5-32 for Wolverhampton and then hit 47 in their reply.

Kidderminster failed to make up much ground, despite Craig Wood hitting 12 boundaries in an undefeated innings of 131 against Ombersley, who won the Worcestershire derby by four wickets with three balls remaining. Replying to Kidderminster's 215-9 from 55 overs, an unbeaten 93 from Uday Kaul saw Ombersley to victory.

West Bromwich Dartmouth lost at home to Dorridge, Kadeer Ali taking 5-64 to the visitors' 222-9.

Ali also proved to be Dartmouth's best batsman, hitting 98 from 173 balls but he was, eventually, last man out at 182 from the last ball of the match.

Nipun Karunanayake scored 101 in Himley's losing draw against Bromsgrove in Division One, while Smethwick kept up the pressure on leaders Moseley with victory over Tamworth.

In Division Two, Cannock & Rugeley Hawks (Johar Ahmed 5-40) beat Fordhouses by three wickets and Wombourne (Adam Quiney 6-57) overcame Sutton Coldfield.

Steve Hinton took 7-37 as Streetly went top of Division Three with victory over Brewood, two points clear of Lichfield.

Wolves women are howling for season

WOLVES Women completed their pre-season preparations with a 2-1 victory over Birmingham and West Midlands Ladies in a tight game at Hednesford Town.

Wolves had a great start, scoring with their first chance on goal in only the third minute.

Jade Cross' shot was parried by the keeper, but the ball fell into the path of Andrea Whetton who guided it into an open net.

With some slick moves from Wolves they were soon on the scoresheet again, this time through Billie Haynes, who found space in the box to tap in the second goal.

Wolves were awarded a penalty in the 21st minute for a foul on Cross. Courtney Jones' shot was saved, but the keeper was adjudged to have encroached and the penalty had to be retaken. Jones shot again, but again the keeper saved.

Then it was Birmingham and West Midlands' turn to have the ball in the net, but their goal was ruled out for offside.

The second half saw Birmingham and West Midlands step up their game, coming close early on. They managed to pull a goal back in the 77th minute after a ball into the box found Charlie Fisher who hit it first time past Issy Foster into the bottom corner to make it 2-1.

Wolves had more chances, with Davies and Criddle both going close, while at the other end Birmingham and West Midlands hadn't given up looking for the equaliser.

Assistant manager Tom Davies said: "We played well, especially during the first 30 minutes, in which we played some great football.

"The second goal was one of the best I've seen with some excellent build-up play, and we look to carry that forward."

Wolves Women's first game back in the FA Women's Premier League Northern Division is away at Blackburn Rovers Ladies on Sunday with a 2pm kick-off at the Sir Tom Finney Stadium, Bamber Bridge FC.

Matt back in the race to win bronze

It's all smiles for, from left, Dwayne Cowan, Matthew Hudson-Smith, Martyn Rooney and Rabah Yousif

MATT HUDSON-SMITH helped Great Britain to a 4x400m relay bronze medal in the final event of the World Athletics Championships in London – after doubts had been raised about his participation.

Wolverhampton's Hudson-Smith ran the opening as he and team-mates Martyn Rooney, Rabah Yousif and Dwayne Cowan clocked a season's best of two minutes 59 seconds behind winners Trinidad and Tobago and second-placed the United States.

Doubts had earlier been aired whether Hudson-Smith would actually take part after Rooney claimed the 22-year-old, from Lanesfield, 'needed to get his head right'. Former Dudley College student Hudson-Smith missed Saturday's heats and Rooney said then: "As far as I'm aware Matt's taken himself out of the team. He's got his own issues to sort out and it's a massive shame because he's a super talent."

However, by last night, Hudson-Smith was back in the team and ran a leg of 45.4 seconds.

Meanwhile, the Müller Grand Prix Birmingham takes place on Sunday at the IAAF Diamond League, at the Alexander Stadium, in Perry Barr.

Sporting stroll to second win in two games

WOLVES SPORTING made it two wins out of two in the West Midlands Regional Premier with a 3-0 win at Stone OA.

The pace of front two Dimitri Dunkley and new signing Tom Hill were causing Stone problems. It was no surprise when on 29 minutes Curtis Ellis whipped in a superb cross and Hill opened the scoring with a bullet header from 18 yards.

It was not until 75 minutes that they got their second, substitute Mark Habbershaw playing a one-two with Dunkley and slotting in.

On 84 minutes Dunkley made it 3-0 after Habbershaw played him in. Sporting had a chance to make it four from the penalty spot but Franco smashed against the bar.

Penn shock as leaders Pelsall out for just 87

PENN caused the shock of the day in the Staffs Clubs Premier Division, skittling leaders Pelsall for just 87.

Imran Jamshed and Tom Nutting did the damage with four wickets each, and, with 31 from Sandeep Dhillon, Penn promptly knocked off the runs with seven wickets to spare.

James Fildes scored a brilliant 104 to help Beacon to a three-wicket win over Hammerwich. Alistair Lawrie (52) and Ben Traat (40) helped Hammerwich to 240, but thanks to Fildes' knock, Beacon ended on 243-7.

There were three wickets each for Springvale bowlers Iqbal Singh, David Geran and Lee Allen as they bowled Swindon out for just 84. Springvale reached their target for the loss of four wickets.

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Ex-Villa ace Barry closing in on appearance record

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Nuno wants pride in his Wolf pack

NUNO ESPIRITO SANTO is calling for his players to be proud of being 'a Wolf'.

The Portuguese boss has told his players that commitment and pride will make them winners in the fans' eyes.

"One thing I can promise to the fans is that every ball is going to be important for us," he said. "If the fans see this in their own players, this fighting, and trying to play at the same time, they will always be with us.

"(Me and my staff) are not here for anyone else. It's for the players that we work, that we try to give them the joy to be in the team, joy in the way we perform. And for everybody to be proud of being a Wolf."

Many of the players have spoken publicly about embracing Nuno's passing philosophy and Wolves' new 3-4-3 formation. The head coach praised the squad for taking on board his ideas.

Nuno said: "I'm really pleased. New ideas, new methods, new drills...sometimes they are surprised doing some things.

"But everything has a point, everything has a 'why', everything has hours and hours of hard work behind it to provide them with the things that we think are better for them so they're ready to perform."

He added: "The players are okay. On this kind of calendar, recovery is very important.

"That, we'll be able to do. It's not only what the players do here at Compton, it's also that they respect themselves at home with their rest and sleep."

Bookies tip Molineux men to make leap to Premier League

NEW boss Nuno Espirito Santo may be playing down his team's chances of promotion – but bookmakers have cut their odds on Wolves reaching the Premier League following their confident start.

After following up their opening day victory over Middlesbrough by beating Derby on Saturday, the Molineux men were joint favourites with most bookies to win the Championship.

Odds as little as 5/1 are being offered with bookmakers believing Wolves and Middlesbrough are the teams to beat in the title race.

At the start of the campaign, Nuno's side were seventh favourites to win the division and were available at 14/1.

But while Wolves' odds are getting shorter, Villa's have drifted.

Steve Bruce's men were joint favourites with Boro to win the league before a ball was kicked.

But after starting the campaign with odds of 7/1 you can now get them at 12/1 to finish in top spot.

They have not started the season as they would have wanted, including Saturday's 3-0 thrashing at Cardiff City.

We are starting to click, says Douglas

By Tim Spiers

BARRY DOUGLAS said Wolves' confidence is sky high after winning at Derby and proclaimed: 'Everything's clicking.'

Scottish wing-back Douglas scored his first goal for two-and-a-half years as Wolves extended their winning start.

Ahead of Tuesday night's trip to Hull City, he said: "It was a very convincing performance.

"(Nuno) is telling us to get on the ball and play and make things happen.

"He is emphasising for everyone to play even under pressure so it is giving us great confidence. Even when our backs are to the wall, he wants us to play out and for me personally it's good. It's early doors, everyone is in that transitional period, so we just need to take one step at a time and keep going.

"Everyone is buying into the way we are playing. It suits us. We know there are going to be tough times when maybe we don't get to play nice football.

"But just now everything seems to be clicking." Wolves face fellow early season high fliers Cardiff City this weekend and then Premier League side Southampton in the Carabao Cup, the Welsh club having registered their own impressive win on Saturday – 3-0 over Aston Villa in a very one-sided contest.

It's a relentless start to the campaign but Douglas believes Wolves are well equipped to keep their run going.

"I don't think there are going to be any easy games in this league but a lot of emphasis is on ourselves.

"On Saturday we showed that we are serious contenders to beat anyone on our day.

"It is early doors but we will take a lot of confidence and positives from it."

NOT WRONG TO SAY 'P' WORD

YOU'D think Wolves fans would be used to setting themselves up for a fall by now, having experienced more false dawns than an Arctic winter.

Last season their team kicked off with a six-game unbeaten run and ended up in a relegation battle.

Heck, back in 2011/12 they were briefly top of the Premier League with seven points from nine games...and contrived to win just three more games all season with one of the worst top-flight points totals in living memory.

But after a nice start to 2017/18 the gold and black army are already starting to use the 'P' word. It's very, very early days and Wolves have achieved absolutely nothing.

Delighted

But going on the victories over Middlesbrough and Derby – two of the best teams on paper in the Championship – there's very little not to be delighted with so far.

And the scenes in the away end at 4.50pm on Saturday are why we all love the game.

Just don't ask Nuno Espirito Santo – who became the first Wolves manager since Ronnie Allen in 1965 to win his first three matches in charge – if he's 'delighted' with what he's overseen so far.

The Wolves boss has his feet stuck so firmly to the floor they'd need prising off with a hammer and chisel. When an unsuspecting radio presenter asked him if he was delighted with what he'd seen at Pride Park, Nuno replied curtly: "No."

'Pleased' is his preferred adjective to describe his team's efforts – but whatever he says on the record he surely can't have envisaged the first competitive week of his tenure going so swimmingly. It wasn't just that Wolves avoided their annual thrashing at Derby. It wasn't just that they won with plenty to spare. No, it was the manner in which they consistently sauntered through Derby's defence like a slalom ski champion. Some of the football they produced in the second half was heavenly.

Everything suddenly clicked into place – Matt Doherty and Barry Douglas rampaged on the overlaps, combining beautifully with Diogo Jota and the excellent Bright Enobakhare.

With Ruben Neves and the rejuvenated Romain Saiss pulling the strings and barely misplacing a pass, Wolves really did look the real deal ahead of the midweek trip to Hull City.

But it was their defence which perhaps impressed most of all. Nuno has built this team from the back with solid foundations. That, more than an explosive forward line, is what grinds out results over a 46-game campaign and earns teams the 'P' word. And that's why this feels more tangible than the early-season excitement of 12 months ago.

A flying Diogo Jota, right, beats former long-time Wolves target Chris Martin to a header

Wing wizard Costa back within weeks

HELDER COSTA and Ben Marshall will both return to action 'within weeks'.

The pair have been out for around a month with ankle and hip injuries respectively.

Costa's recovery is on track. He underwent surgery on July 10 for the ankle problem that's been bothering him since the start of April and the timeframe for his return was two months.

Marshall's expected absence wasn't released by Wolves after he left the club's pre-season tour of Austria. But Nuno has revealed that the pair are both due to return to training in the next couple of weeks.

Of Costa, the boss said: "He is a couple of weeks. He's still on recovery, hopefully in a couple of weeks he'll join the group and then it's all about getting back in shape again.

"Then we'll choose the right moment (for him to play) because after he joins he cannot take a step back. He has to join (the group) and progress until he's ready to be an option for us."

Kortney Hause and Morgan Gibbs-White are also nearing a return. Nuno added on Marshall: "Just a few weeks for Ben as well.

"He's the same process. Marshall, Kortney, Helder, Gibbs-White, they're 'almost' – but we have to be really careful," Nuno added.

"But it's important we have a squad to choose from and options."

Meanwhile, the Wolves boss has categorically ruled out selling Conor Coady.

Striker Nazon bags himself a new deal

WOLVES striker Duckens Nazon has extended his contract with the club until 2019. The Haiti international is currently on loan with Coventry City.

Nazon, 23, who was spotted while playing for Haiti, has yet to make his Wolves debut. He joined the club in January after a spell in the Indian Premier League.

The striker was part of Wolves' Under-23 team in the second half of last season and recently joined Coventry, with the deal lasting until January. He initially signed a six-month contract with the option of another season, which Wolves took up in the summer.

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